

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

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
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Ray Bjorgaard, De Soto, Kansas: “During the last 32 years I’ve owned eight different Kubota tractors ranging from 16 to 63 hp, and never had a bad one. I used a 19 hp B8200 model for 16 years to do commercial landscaping. Four years ago I traded that tractor for a 34 hp B2910 model, which I love.”

Todd Rufenacht, Wauseon, Ohio: “My 1992 Case 1840 skid loader is a flawless machine. We’ve used it at least twice a day on our dairy farm for 15 years and now it has more than 7,000 hours on it. The biggest repair was replacement of the water pump at about 4,200 hours.”

Theodore David Shields, Sr., Camden, Delaware: “In October of 2005 I bought a new Deere 3320 tractor equipped with a 300 CX front-end loader. The tractor now has 56 hours on it but I’ve only been able to use the loader itself for about four hours. The pins and bushings on the loader were loose. The amount of slop in the pins was what you’d expect to find in an old, wornout loader that had been abused and not greased regularly.

“In my opinion, the craftsmanship on this loader is of inferior quality. The dealer that I bought it from sent someone out to tell me that everything is within company guidelines.

has remained virtually unchanged for more than 100 years.”

Paul Anderson, Cole Harbor, N. Dak.: Paul likes Nextel wireless phone service. “If you spend 90 percent of your time within Nextel’s service area, they offer a far superior wireless phone service to anything cellular. I bought my Nextel Motorola i580 phone in August of 2006 and have had very few dropped calls - only about a dozen that I can remember. Their call clarity is far superior to what I was using in the past.

“The phone is rubber-armored and built to military specs. I have the one-button, direct connect with my employees included in my service that works like a walkie talkie. It’s not the cheapest service out there, but I have noticeably lower blood pressure and less frustration ever since I got rid of my old wireless service.”

Larry Thompson, Chouteau, Okla.: “FARM SHOW is my best buy. It features amazing stuff to build and read. Wow! It helps unlock the brain and makes a person at the very least go out and build something new. What other product does that? I always look forward to the next issue.”

Bob Norby, Moorhead, Minn.: “I like high quality guns and own an Anschutz 22 Rim Fire model 1710. I bought it for about \$1,300. This same company makes the Olympic competition models that sell for up to \$10,000 so I figured it would be a great gun. Unfortunately, the trigger is a joke. It’s supposed to be adjustable but it’s not.”

William P. Goshorn, Bondurant, Iowa: “My 2000 NorTrac 20 hp 4-WD diesel tractor is my worst buy. In the spring of 2005, a bearing wore out in the tractor’s timing gear, destroying two gears and the aluminum case. I went to Northern Tool and spent more than \$100 for the wrong parts, which the company wouldn’t take back. I never did get the parts I needed from them. Poor customer service. I found the correct parts at Homier Distributing (www.Homier.com; ph 800 348-5004) for just \$65.”

Pete Johnson, Huntsville, Texas: “I bought a Witzco Challenger 50-ton, 3-axle lowboy trailer in 1999 from a local distributor. I was happy with it so in late 2005 I decided to buy another one. It was delivered in February, 2006. However, the new trailer wouldn’t lift up after being loaded so I called the company. They told me I had the wrong pump and sent out a new one. The new pump didn’t help. Now the company won’t do anything about the problem. I think it needs a bigger motor.”

B. W. Donaldson, Memphis, Tenn.: “My 2005 Montana tractor is my worst buy. I’ve reported on the problems with this tractor before but failed to mention two other defects. The square towbar holder on the underside split out while carrying a load of hay. Also, the adjuster for keeping a piece of equipment level has got to be tied off or it will unadjust itself.”

Gene G. Allen, Topeka, Kansas: “My 2006 Pontiac GT-6 hard top retractable convertible is a fun car to drive even for a 70-year-old. It looks like a two-door hardtop with the top up from both the inside and outside. I can switch from hardtop to convertible in only 30 seconds by pushing a button. This car gets 30 mpg, accelerates well, and handles like a sports car. It makes me feel 30 years younger.

“My 2002 Polaris 325 Magnum ATV is my worst buy. The cheap spring clamps on the hoses to the oil cooler failed, dumping out two quarts of oil under the ATV and causing total engine failure. Even though the factory recalled more than 100,000 of these units for factory modifications they just played dodgeball concerning my problem. They wouldn’t stand behind their product.”

Randy Robey, Tehachap, California:

I’ve waited all my life to own a new Deere tractor, and now all I’ve got is something made with inferior parts made in China. I always thought Deere was like mom and apple pie. Everyone thinks their tractors are 100 percent American made. Deere should advertise the truth that their 300 CX loader is assembled in Canada with parts imported from China. I wonder where the tractor itself was made, and where the parts on it came from?”

Barry and Lana Love, Hardisty, Alberta: “This photo shows our Advance grain trailer parked beside Highway 13 about two miles west of Hardisty, Alberta. The trailer buckled last July with 27 tons of wheat on it, even though the trailer has a legal weight limit of 30 tons. I bought the trailer



new in 1998. It has fewer than 60,000 miles on it and has been used only for farm work. We have two engineer’s reports that say the trailer buckled due to a structural flaw. I think the company should stand behind its products. Ever since this accident, we’ve been leary when working around these trailers.”

Alfred Gustafson, Vinton, Iowa: “Years ago, when farmers milked cows by hand, they used a product called Bag Balm on cow teats (Dairy Association Co., Inc; ph 800 626-3610; www.bagbalm.com). It’s a medicated ointment with lanolin in it that softens and moistens the skin. I recently started using this product on my dry, itchy skin and it worked great. It’s much less expensive than drugstore medications. It still comes in packaging that