

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Olivia Roth, Corryton, Tenn.:** The Roths bought one of the Staple Getter fence post staple pullers featured in the Vol. 30, No. 6, issue of FARM SHOW (Tony Dinatale, P.O. Box 1671, Deer Park, Wash. 99006 ph 509 276-8552). “We absolutely love it, especially my grandfather who is 87 years old and still an active farmer. He’s up bright and early and still works till dark. He loves the Staple Getter. In fact, we bought another one so we’ll always have one around. My grandfather says we need it so my husband and I can do all the work and he can supervise. At just \$11.95 plus \$5.95 S&H, this tool is a bargain. Really saves time tearing down fence.”

# 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:  
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**Mark Newhall, Lakeville, Minn.:** The ThermaCell Mosquito repeller is a small butane-powered device for chasing away mosquitoes, black flies and other biting insects. It covers a 225 sq. ft. area, “burning” small, replaceable mats that release repellent when heated. “I tested this device this past summer and my conclusion is that while it seems to work fine, it’s not really worth the expense or the time unless you have absolutely the right situation. First, the area it covers is not that big. Second, although the manufacturer says it’s odorless, I found it had kind of a petroleum smell to it. Third, it’ll only work in an area with no air movement. So if you try to use it on a deck or boat, it’s unlikely to work. Fourth, it takes 10 to 15 minutes for it to clear an area of bugs so you have to think ahead. And fifth, you have to keep replacing the little pads and the butane cylinder that powers it. And they’re not cheap. My conclusion: If you have a small open garage or shed that you want to work in without slapping bugs, it might be worth it. I wouldn’t bother with it anywhere else.”

**Toivo Kujala, Bovey, Minn.:** “My 1950 Allis Chalmers B tractor is my best buy. I use it for everything from plowing to cultivating to hauling firewood and hay work. It’s fun to use and dependable.”

**Ken Perkins, Patten, Maine:** “I like my 1998 Polaris 500 ATV. I retired in 1997 from the paper industry and started working my spruce plantations. So far we’ve thinned 90 acres, with 35 to 40 percent of the trees be-

ing cut. The trees range from 4 to 14 inches in diameter. Every tree has been cut into 4-ft. lengths and hauled by my ATV on a 4 by 8-ft. 2-wheeled trailer. No problems.”

**Dave Rhodes, Lebanon County, Penn.:** “It’s too bad a good American company like Durango Shoe has to import its boots. I’ve used their shoes in the past when they were U.S. made, and they had good service. The last pair of shoes I bought were much higher priced and made in China. Now after only one year of use, these light duty shoes are falling apart. When it’s hot they burn your feet, and when it’s cold your feet freeze.”

**Mark C. Williams, Dacoma, Okla.:** “My 1992 Kubota B1550 tractor is my best buy. It’s powered by only a 17 hp, 3-cyl. diesel engine but does the work of many 30 hp tractors. No problems.”

**Mark Conyers, Weatherford, Texas:** “I’ve been using Snap-On tools for 30 years in trucking and farming and for motor racing service and repairs. They’re built with quality and never let me down.

“The Chicago Electric variable speed 3/8-in. drill and reciprocating saw I bought from Harbor Freight are my worst buys. The saw stalls constantly, and it’s difficult to cut anything other than the thinnest or softest materials. If I try to use the drill at slower speeds the motor literally smokes. I destroyed one motor while using a 3/8-in. drill bit at normal speed in only 1/8-in. thick mild steel. Fortunately the drill was under warranty each time, but a warranty is pointless if the tool can’t survive normal use.”

**Edward Welters, Verona, Mo.:** “Our 1993 Dodge diesel pickup has been our main vehicle for nearly 15 years and hasn’t needed any repairs. No problems. It’s powered by a real dependable Cummins engine. It’s the only vehicle we’ve ever had that never had to go back for repairs. It’s also very fuel efficient.”

**John Zobeck, New Hampton, Iowa:** “In a recent issue Vernon Stolte of Watertown, Wis., said he had trouble with his Waterwise water distiller ([www.waterwise.com](http://www.waterwise.com)). I have a distiller of the same make and it’s my best buy. I bought this unit in June 2005 and have been enjoying pure, clean water every day since I bought it. Stolte mentioned that his distiller shut off before it distilled the full bottle of water. I had the same problem, and then I found the bottom plate inside that heats the water builds up with lime from the water and shuts off prematurely. Every month or so, I use a brush to clean out the inside and rinse it clean. Then I put enough vinegar inside to cover the bottom plate and let it soak overnight. I rinse it good the next morning and fill it with water, then plug it in. Now it works fine for me.”

**Wayne Miller, Columbia City, Ind.:** “Our Ex-Mark Lazer Z 60-in. riding mower is our best buy. It’s built extremely well and the 25 hp Kohler engine runs great. It mows fast and is highly maneuverable.”

**Alice Mendoza, Strang, Okla.:** A solar-powered predator light called Nite Guard rates as Alice’s “best buy” (ph 800 328-6647; [www.NiteGuard.com](http://www.NiteGuard.com)). It doesn’t require batteries or electricity. A red flashing LED light automatically turns on at dusk and off at full daylight. Predators believe the flash to be the eye of another animal so they feel threatened and stay away. The unit is completely sealed and resistant to temperature extremes.

“This product has changed my farming life,” says Alice. “In the past I lost chickens, ducks, and guinea hens to predators such as raccoons, opossums and owls. Since installing eight of these solar-powered gerry around my property I no longer have to worry about predators. They work so well I don’t even lock my chickens up at night.”

**Veril Dietzmann, Brenham, Texas:** “I like the 1985 Deere 301A tractor that I bought

