

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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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,
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Arthur Rubenzahl, Neversink, N.Y.: “My **Veto Pro Pac** tool bag is super handy, with all the tools vertically stored so they can be easily accessed (www.vetopropac.com; ph 877 847-1443). The company offers a wide range of products and accessories, including tool bags, tool pouches, tool backpacks, and laptop tool bags. All of them come with a 5-year warranty.”

Dennis Strahle, Eagle, Mich.: “My 2004 **Chevrolet Duramax** pickup has more than 256,000 miles on the odometer but still runs great.

“My 1962 **Cockshutt** 507 Super tractor does our chores faithfully. I added a 3-pt. hitch, as well as a quick hitch that’s super handy.”

Joe Grisham, Saline, La.: “My 2014 **Stihl MS 441** is the worst chainsaw I’ve used in the 37 years I’ve been cutting logs. I bought it to replace my 20-year-old MS 440, which was a great saw. The carburetor on the MS 441 is electronically controlled, and I had to have the carburetor replaced twice within the first 3 mo. This saw has already spent more time in the shop than the MS 440 did in 20 years. I’m now rebuilding an old MS 440 instead of buying

They should last a long time.”

On the negative side, he lists his 2013 **Porter Cable** cordless drill equipped with a 20-volt lithium battery. “The battery is less than a year old but already it’s dead and won’t take a charge.

“I’m tired of hearing people complain about their **Ford** pickups equipped with the 6.0-liter diesel engine. Everyone knows this engine is a dud, so it serves you right if you go out and buy one.”

Bruce D. Anderson, Plum City, Wis.: “All the **Jonsered** chainsaws I’ve owned over the years have been best buys. The 2171 Turbo model I bought in 2003 has been bulletproof. In 2013 I bought a 2152 model that starts, runs and cuts great, but some features on it aren’t built as sturdy as the 2171. For example, the on-off switch broke within 6 months. But the dealer replaced it free of charge.”

Harvey Melcher, Friendswood, Texas: “I like my 2002 **Chevrolet** 2500 pickup equipped with a diesel engine and Allison transmission. I use it to pull my gooseneck trailer loaded with a Deere backhoe, and also to haul my Deere tractor and 8-ft. mower. This pickup gets 14 to 16 mpg around town and 20 to 21 mpg empty on the freeway. It has more than 171,000 miles on it with no big problems.

“I also like my 2007 **Chevrolet** 2500 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine and Allison transmission. It pulls another gooseneck trailer loaded with my Deere compact track loader. No problems.”

Ted Olson, Lewiston, Minn.: He’s had problems with his 2006 **McCormick** 150 front wheel assist tractor. “In 2013 with about 830 hours on the tractor, I switched the pto from 540 to 1,000 rpm’s so I could use the tractor to operate my stalk chopper. However, I was able to chop stalks for only about a half day before the pto quit working. It cost \$1,533.99 to repair. I was told that I had damaged a 1/4-in. pin when I switched the pto.

“Last year I again wanted to switch the pto from 540 to 1,000 rpm’s. However, I was having trouble making the change so I took the tractor back to the dealer who, with some difficulty, made the change. This time I was able to drive only about 300 ft. before the pto quit working. The dealer’s mechanic told me many other customers have had the same problem.

“I finally finished chopping stalks with my 1972 IH 1066 tractor, which has about 4,000 hrs. on it.”

Jim Randall, Fort Defiance, Va.: Jim’s disappointed with his **Liberty** 6-ft. flail mower. “I ordered this mower with a standard Cat. I 3-pt. hitch, but instead they sent an offset hitch that doesn’t work with any of my tractors. The company won’t refund my money or replace the machine. I was told this was an American-made machine, but I later found out it’s actually made in China.

“I’m a carpenter and my **Stiletto** hammer is the only one I ever use (www.stiletto.com; ph 800 987-1849). It makes driving 20-penny pole barn nails into wood easy.”

Bobby Milam, Altoona, Ala.: “I find that using a ‘home brew’ mix of 50-50 automatic transmission fluid and acetone to loosen up rusted nuts, as seen in FARM SHOW, works great. It also works equally well for cooling drill bits, but you have to use it sparingly because only a few drops will do the job. I usually apply it with a small paint brush. It seems to work best with 3/8-in. bits and larger.”

Barclay E. Mills, Mattoon, Ill.: “I’m happy with my 2014 **Stihl MS 180C** chainsaw. Starting it up cold takes about 3 pulls, but after the saw has warmed up it takes only one pull. All the Stihl products I’ve ever used have worked great.”

another MS 441.”

Tom Craft, Butler, Mo.: “I like my **Kencove** KF 2400 remote-controlled electric fence charger (www.kencove.com; ph 800 536-2683). The remote control lets me turn the charger on or off anywhere along the fence, which saves time when I’m working on it.

“My **Kubota** 1120 diesel-powered ATV has a lot of power, rides nice, and is easy on fuel. I use it with a boomless 12-volt sprayer. It’s a great combination.”

Ron Ratzlaff, Avon, S. Dak.: Ron’s the satisfied owner of a 2011 **Krause** 20-ft. Excelsior vertical tillage implement (www.kuhnkrause.com; ph 800 957-2873). “We use it in spring before planting small grains, corn, beans and alfalfa. It leaves a couple inches of loose soil and chops up the crop residue without leaving ridges. We go 7 to 8 mph.”

Thoyas C. Jones, Williamstown, Ky.: “Several years ago I bought a used **Deutz** round baler that makes 4 by 4 bales. I’ve made many thousands of bales with this machine, yet have had to replace just one bearing. When I retired I sold the baler for almost as much as I paid for it.

“I don’t like the pour spouts on today’s EPA-regulated gas cans. One time I filled a can with gas, replaced the spout in the container, and set it down in my pickup bed. Unfortunately, the flapper at the end of the spout blew out and I got splashed with gas. The idiot who invented these spouts should be arrested.”

Greg Kropf, Westphalia, Kansas: “We really like our **Parmak** pigtail step-in electric fence posts (www.parmak.usa.com; ph 800 662-1038). These steel posts are designed to work with all wire, polywire, polytape and rope-style electric fences. They’re built heavy with a big step and go easily into the ground.