

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



Daniel and Phyllis Snow, Harrison, Ark.: “The **Bully Dog** Heavy-Duty Gauge Tuner (HDGT) has been a big best buy for us. We installed it on our 1996 Freightliner Classic XL in Jan. 2013 and it has saved us more than \$30,000 by increasing our mileage from 4.8 mpg to 6.2 mpg. We saved \$174 on our first trip versus making the same run multiple times previously.

“When we started using the Driving Coach feature to change our driving habits, we improved mileage another 0.7 mpg. It lets us watch our fuel use as we drive and adjust to improve fuel economy.

“We also installed a SmartTruck Undertray system to improve airflow and improved mileage another 0.4 mpg. Adding a ceramic-

tunes ready to upload. It also offers diagnostic features in addition to extensive monitoring capabilities.

“The Bully Dog HDGT has saved us so much, we now help other truckers determine what questions they need to ask to get more out of their engines. They buy a Bully Dog, and we help them work with the tech support person to design a custom tune for their needs.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel and Phyllis Snow (ph 870 405-0788 or 870 405-0888) or Bully Dog Systems (ph 940 783-9914; www.bullydog.com).

Kevin Coleman, Uvalde, Texas: “I build homes and commercial buildings using compressed earth blocks (CEB). I use equipment from **Advanced Earthen Construction Technologies** (AECT).



“Other machines I’ve seen have metal on metal compaction with dirt pressed in the center. It sticks to the metal like field dirt on a plow. AECT has a rubberized material on the bottom that releases the dirt block from the bottom.

“The result is a block made under as much as 1,700 psi. It is so compacted that you can drive a nail into it. I’ve built walls with these blocks and had cabinets hang on the walls for 10 years. I just drill screws directly into the blocks.

“You can drop a block made with Jetter’s equipment and stabilized with lime in a bucket of water, and when the water has evaporated, the block will still be solid and ready to use.



“AECT builds a variety of sizes of equipment for mixing the dirt and making the blocks. I wouldn’t use anything else.

“I don’t know why more people don’t build with earth blocks. It will last forever, and it is low cost and green. I’ve built homes for as little as \$80 per sq. ft. I can manufacture 60 to 80 percent of a home on site and it’ll be literally fireproof. They have a feel like no other building. There is no echo, even in an empty one, and people who’ve lived in one never want to live in anything else.”

Benny Lockhart, Lauderdale, Miss.: “It’s the best money I’ve spent in years,” says Benny about his **Milwaukee** M18 cordless grease gun. “I own 2 tractors with a lot of implements, as well as a backhoe, so I have a lot of grease fittings to service. I’ve tried manual pumps and also air-operated grease guns, but nothing works as well as my cordless Milwaukee.

“Everything on my **Oregon Scientific** WMR86 wireless weather station works good except for the outdoor temperature module, which quit working after one week. I replaced the batteries and reset the unit several times, but it didn’t help.”

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**

coated exhaust manifold added 0.2 mpg, bringing our fuel efficiency to 7.5 mpg. We were burning 48 percent of total revenue in fuel costs and needed to be at 33 percent to be profitable. With the changes, we blew by it to 29 to 30 percent.



“We looked at other custom tuners, but we would have needed to shut down for at least 3 days while sending our electronic control module (ECM) off to have the tune burned in. Plus, if the ECM dies, you have to pay to have the new one retuned.

“Bully Dog HDGT was plug and play. We had it installed in about 15 min. Any time we want to change the tune, from mountain driving to flatland, for example, we can do it in a few minutes. When we go in for service, we download the custom tune and reload the OEM stock tune that the Bully Dog has saved.

“If we trade trucks, we can just move the Bully Dog to the new one and install the custom tune. If the ECM gets fried, you can buy a new one and reload either stock or custom tunes.

“The Bully Dog comes with an Economy tune and a Power/Economy tune that provides an additional 75 to 100 hp. Custom tunes can also be written for trucks with after market engine changes or special load situations. You can have up to 3 different