

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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John Tierney, Minneapolis, Minn.: “I was going to build a tow bar to pull my motorcycle behind my pickup when someone told me about this new **Magneta** hitch, which



was just what I needed,” says John, pleased with his cycle hitch. He paid just over \$300 for the hitch. It fits into a standard receiver hitch and simply cradles the front wheel of



the motorcycle. A hand crank is used to lower the cradle to the ground so you can drive right

adjustment on a replacement pair. Anyone who's not satisfied with the company's products and can't get a satisfactory adjustment from their dealer should contact the factory directly. With four pairs of Red Wing boots, one pair of athletic shoes, and one pair of bedroom slippers, I'm a satisfied customer.”

Claire Moore, Dolliver, Iowa: “I like my **DR 550** weed and tree trimmer equipped with an OHV gas engine. I used it to cut down about 100 ash trees in a grove that was too thickly populated. I bought a circular saw blade attachment for it. The blade can be sharpened as needed. I can use it to cut trees as big as 10 in. in diameter. It works perfect. It's a good machine.”

Dale Kelm, Faribault, Minn.: “I'm happy with my 1999 **Black & Decker 7.2-volt** cordless drill. It's not the biggest cordless drill on the market, but it has plenty of power to put 2 1/2-in. screws into 2 by 4 lumber and is lightweight, which makes it handy for smaller jobs.

“My 1986 **Micro Trac MT-3000** spray controller has never failed and is always accurate.”

Mrs. Earl Arndt, LeSueur, Minn.: “I'm well satisfied with my 1999 **DR 6** hp trimmer-mower. It's a lot easier to use than a hand-held trimmer and has much bigger strings so it can cut bigger weeds and grass. The big wheels make it easy to push and get up close to foundations, etc. I can use this machine to cut where there are stones and rocks, which is virtually impossible with a regular lawn mower.”

Del Shaw, Toddville, Iowa: “My **Bobcat 873** skid steer loader is well designed and is the best Bobcat that we've ever owned. It has the a great cab enclosure, lights, and controls and, best of all, a heater that keeps us warm and comfortable in zero degree weather.”

Ken Schiroo, Glencoe, Minn.: “My best buy is my 1989 **Ford 1320** compact tractor equipped with a 17 1/2 hp diesel engine. We use it with a 60-in. lawn mower deck. It's equipped with a 3-pt. hitch and 540 rpm pto. The diesel engine starts right up without a heater even in temperatures down to 20 degrees below zero. We use it to mow a large lawn, blow snow, operate an 8-in. dia., 55-ft. long grain auger, and many more jobs. We replaced one set of mower blades and also replaced the battery last summer. No other repairs at all.

“My 1979 **Mix-Mill** equipped with a 5 hp electric motor is a best buy. We use it to grind feed.”

John Miller, Howard City, Mich.: “In the fall of 1998 I bought a **Toro** leaf blower to blow down cob webs and dust in our barn. I was well pleased with it the first year, but the next year I was able to run it less than a half hour before it quit working. I took it back to the dealer who said it would probably cost more to fix it than to buy a new one, even though he never even looked at the machine. It wasn't quite a year old and it was supposed to have a two-year warranty. I wrote to the company but they never replied.

“One of my best buys is my **Case-IH 8520** in-line baler. I can't say enough good things about it. I had a New Holland 311 model that worked fine except that it wouldn't make two bales alike. The Case-IH model makes every bale the same regardless of field conditions.

“One of my worst buys of all time was a **Generac** generator. I got less than one hour of use from it even though it was in the shop for repairs three different times. I got so sick of it that I traded it for a **Winco**, which I like.

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**

on and tie down the wheel. Then you use the crank to raise it up to transport position. The rear wheel rests on the ground.

One thing John doesn't like about the hitch is that the front wheel is held in place by three narrow nylon straps. “They work okay but I think I'm going to replace them with heavier straps that should hold tighter. I might also make a caster wheel to go under the back wheel for longer trips to prevent wear and tear to the drive chain.” (Contact: Magneta Hitch, Oldenkamp, Inc., 801 Black Forrest Rd., Hull, Iowa 51239 ph 800-397-3819 or 712 439-1167; Web site: www.magnetatrailers.com)

Darroll Kramer, Pine Island, Minn.: Darroll's impressed with his 1996 **MTD 5** hp rototiller. “It starts well, runs quiet, and does a good job of mixing the soil without ridging.

“I like my 1997 **Campbell-Hausfeld** coil-type roofing nailer. I do roofing as a sideline and this nailer works perfect. I've done a lot of shingling since I bought it but it hasn't required any repairs at all.

“My **Troy Bilt 5** hp rototiller is my worst buy. It piled the dirt too high and left a lot of ridges and hollows. I took it back to the dealer and tried a wider, 8 hp model. However, it didn't work any better so I took it back, too. I got all my money back except for \$50.”

Charles N. Rogers, Jr., Raleigh, N.C.: “I've purchased many pairs of **Red Wing** boots over the years for myself, my wife, and my friends. They've always been of high quality. On the one occasion when I wasn't satisfied, my local dealer provided an