

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

Russell likes his **Morton** farm shop building. "It's a real pleasure to have a warm shop during the winter where we can repair and maintain our equipment. We've purchased six Morton buildings over the years and have been happy with all of them. During zero degree weather we can turn the heat off with the building at 60 degrees, and three days later it'll still be 48 to 50 degrees."

**Ted Shields, Bloomfield, Ky.:** Ted's the satisfied owner of a 1990 **New Holland** 411 discbine. "We've used it to mow about 5,000 acres without any major problems. A disc bearing went out about three years ago which the dealer fixed within 24 hours. The only problem is that it pulls pretty hard, but this just lets me know that it's built heavier and is more rugged than some of the competitors' 'lighter' machines. It can mow incredibly thick hay even better than it can mow light crops. Overall, it's an excellent machine."

"My **Homelite** Old Blue chain saw was always hard to start, and after three years the motor locked up. It would've cost more to fix than the saw was worth. Now I use it as a door stop."

**Irwin McCullough, Sharpville, Pa.:** Irwin likes his 1995 **Agco** 9650 tractor equipped with a Deutz air-cooled engine. "It's easy to operate and the 18-speed powershift transmission has a good selection of speeds. It's also easy on fuel. My only complaint is that the starter is way too small and won't start the engine in cold weather."

"My worst buy is my **Dodge** 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It has a lot of power and an excellent ride and starts easy in winter. However, it went through three automatic transmissions in only 62,000 miles so I traded it for a **Ford** pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine. It's more fuel efficient and has more power, but it rides awfully rough and I have to get out of the cab in order to lock in the front hubs. I wish I didn't have to do that."

**Dale D. Barnes, New Windsor, Ill.:** Dale's proud of his **Kubota** B20 front wheel

### "It went through three automatic transmissions in only 62,000 miles."

assist tractor equipped with a TL420 front-end loader. "This tractor has greatly helped me in my FFA projects and in achieving my personal goal of raising gourds. It's powered by a 3-cylinder diesel engine which always starts right up. I really like the front wheel assist."

**Clarence P. Dove, Seneca Falls, N.Y.:** "I like my **Bergman** Agri-Speed automatic wagon hitch. It mounts on my tractor's drawbar and implement tongue and lets me hook up to any wagon or trailer without getting out of the tractor cab. It makes hooking up a wagon to a tractor or forage chopper much faster and a lot easier, especially when climbing on and off a tractor is a job in itself."

"My **Keenan** TMR mixer allows us to add dry forage to our total mixed rations and has helped raise our butterfat test from 3.4 to 3.8. It's a simple machine with little on it that can go wrong."

**Calvin Naasko, Pelkie, Mich.:** Calvin's disappointed with his **Century** 220 AC or 140 DC welder. "Whenever I use it to weld at the rated duty cycle, the DC mode burns out diodes like they're going out of style. I've had to replace three diodes. The AC mode has to be set at 180 amps in order to burn a 1/8-in. rod."

"I like my 1960 **Ford** Major tractor equipped with a diesel engine, which I bought used in 1967. It has more than 3,600 hours on it but I still don't have to add oil between oil changes. It also starts easy. I use it to power my sawmill and to operate a rotary mower. I use a **Long** 3-pt. backhoe with it which is also trouble-free."

**Ronnie Kennedy, Goldman Equipment, Tallulah, La.:** "The B.L. Game Skinner is the best small game skinner I've ever used."



It makes a messy job clean and easy. In fact, it works so well I've started giving them to some of my best customers here at our Deere dealership. (B.L. Game Skinnors, 1219 Ward III School Rd., Winnsboro, La. 71295 ph 318 722-9907; www.blgameskinners.com; Sells for \$20 plus \$5 S&H.)"

**Lynwood Cray, Preston, Ct.:** Lynwood likes his 1997 **Ford** F-350 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5.7-liter engine and 5-speed transmission. "It has only about 12,000 miles on it but I like what I've seen so far. It's well built and averages about 13 mpg empty. My only complaint is that the seat is uncomfortable."

**Paul H. Rissler, New Enterprise, Pa.:** Paul, a dairyman, is impressed with a feed additive called **Conlic** that's distributed by Grotek Inc. (901 Fremont Ave., Suite 168, Alhambra, Calif. 91803 ph 800 647-6835). "It's concentrated 18-month aged garlic that doesn't get into the milk. Cows that eat it utilize protein better and in general have better health. I've been adding it to my total mixed rations for about a year now. Within one week after I started feeding it, I was able to cut back on soymeal, which saved me a lot of money. Also, there was a notable increase in milk production. My cows also had the lowest SCC count in our county last year."

"My worst buy is **BST**. I tested it for a year and lost a few cows due to some infections. This product is supposed to cause a big increase in milk production. If that's true then I think every dairy farmer should quit using it. If they did, milk prices would go up more than the return on investment of the product."

**Craig N. Kreider, Petersburg, Pa.:** "It rides and handles better than any other pickup I've owned," says Craig, happy with his 2000 **Dodge** 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup. "So far it has handled any load I've put on it or behind it with ease. I never knew an 8,800-lb. GVW pickup could be such a joy to drive."

**Robert J. Hoffman, Loogootee, Ind.:** "My best buy is **FARM SHOW** Magazine. With \$1.94 per bu. corn and \$5.45 per bu. soybeans, and some hogs that I sold for 10 cents a pound last year, it was the only pur-

chase that I could justify."

**Bruce W. Johnson, Raleigh, N.C.:** Bruce is impressed with his 15 gpm **V&M** "Add-A-Valve" which plumbs into your tractor's existing hydraulic remote outlets (V&M Inc., 300 E. 40th St. N., Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57104 ph 800 648-6507 or 605 332-2481). The valve can be mounted on either the tractor or implement. You can "quick connect" to your tractor's remote hydraulic outlets if they're strong enough to support the extra weight - 5/16-in. holes are pre-drilled in the valve body for easy mounting on tractor or implement. The Add-A-Valve control grip is mounted on your hydraulic remote lever for easy one-handed operation. All you do is move the handle to direct flow on your primary outlet or depress a button and direct flow for your secondary outlet.

"It's an excellent company to do business with," says Bruce. "The valve solved my problem of having to operate two hydraulic cylinders, each performing a separate function, with only one lever on my skid steer loader. The same lever also moves the skid steer forward, backward and steers it, so adding one more lever would make it impossible to operate. However, using the Add-A-Valve I can simply press an electric button which lets me perform two functions using one lever."

**Lewis Klejeski, Cloquet, Minn.:** "My 1999 **Skil** 12-volt cordless drill is my best buy. It has five torque settings which gives us just the right torque needed for various jobs. Also, the battery holds the charge well and the keyless chuck works great. It's a pleasure to use."

"My **Ryobi** 3/8-in. cordless drill is the most disappointing piece of equipment I own. The battery had a very short life and to replace or repair it would've cost more than the drill itself was worth. The chuck also was bad. It wouldn't hold very well."

**Wayne Waardenburg, Abbotsford, B.C.:** "I'm well pleased with my 1993 **Chrysler** Concorde car. It's not rated very high by Consumer Report magazine, but my total cost for repairs so far is less than \$500 (Canadian) which I think is pretty good."

**Dave Misiach, Imlat City, Mich.:** Dave's disappointed with his **Ariens** 20 hp garden tractor. "The driveshaft broke off and while repairing it I discovered that the frame was cracked. I called the company but they said there was nothing they could do. Now I'm stuck with it. I've had nothing but trouble with this tractor ever since I bought it. It's three years old and has more down time than running time. Over the past three years it has a total of only two days running time. I'll never buy an Ariens product again."

**Anthony P. Salentine, Big Bend, Wis.:** "Our **Deere** 4430 tractor has more than 10,000 hours on it with only one engine overhaul. It's one of the best tractors we've ever owned."

"We really like our **Great Plains** no-till 24-ft. soybean drill."

**Tom DesJarlais, Sr., Oconto, Wis.:** Tom's impressed with his **Haybuster** rock picker. "I wish I had bought this machine years ago. I farm alone and it has saved me countless hours of back breaking work. However, it does have its limitations in trashy conditions."

"My 1989 **Chevrolet** 4-WD pickup is the worst pickup I've ever owned. It lacks power and burns oil. The air conditioner doesn't work, the radio and heater controls are hard to use, and it shifts hard into 4-WD. All it's

good for is going into town for groceries, and even then it can't handle more than two bags."

**Harvey Zabel, Prairie du Chien, Wis.:** "I like my **DeWalt** 14.4-volt cordless power screw and drill driver. I bought it a year ago to fasten screws into a metal pole building which our local antique club was putting up. I was able to drive screws for two hours non-stop on a single battery charge. By that time the other battery was charged up and ready to go. It really comes in handy around our farm for drilling holes anywhere there's no electricity. The worst thing about it is that whenever I go to use it I can't find it. Either my wife has it in the house or my son has it in his truck."

On the "worst buy" side, Harvey lists his **Drill Doctor** bit sharpener. "It worked alright at first, but after a couple of months, it wouldn't sharpen the back side of the bit. Considering what I paid for it, I consider it a big rip-off. I've now gone back to sharpening bits free-hand on my old grinder."

**Rex Ballard, Waynetown, Ind.:** "My best buy is my 1998 **Deere** 7810 tractor. It has more power than a 7800 and is easier on fuel. It's been trouble-free."

"My 1998 **Case-IH** 2366 combine is a dependable machine that has a lot of capacity and is a pleasure to operate. However, I wish it had a hydraulic feeder reverser on it."

"My **Makita** reciprocating saw is my worst buy. After the warranty expired, the saw did, too."

**David Drake, Ault, Colo.:** David's impressed with his two **Deere** MFWD tractors - a 1991 4255 and a 1993 4960. "Both have a lot of torque and do a lot of work per gallon of fuel. I've had very few problems with either one."

**Murl Weinbrenner, Mineral Point, Wis.:** Murl's the satisfied owner of a 1982 **Simplicity** garden tractor equipped with a 42-in. mower and snowblower. "This 16 hp tractor has cut a lot of grass and blown a lot of snow over the years and has only needed a new coil in all that time. It starts easy all year long, has a lot of power, and still looks good. It's built strong and has rollers all across the back of the mower deck to keep it mowing evenly."

**Cecil F. Butler, Mesick, Mich.:** "It's a handy farm chore vehicle," says Cecil about his 1998 **Kawasaki** Mule 2510. "It's easy to get on and off and is economical to operate."

**Dave Amble, Menomonie, Wis.:** Dave owns a 1992 **Ingersol** 4020 garden tractor equipped with a 48-in. mower deck. "I bought it used when it was 1 1/2 years old and it has met all my expectations. It's powered by a 20 hp Onan engine and is hydraulic-driven with a hydraulic lift for attachments. I've made a front blade, a dethatcher, and a pull-type grader for it. It does a nice job and mows even. I've got about 450 hours on it with only routine maintenance."

"My worst buy is my **Sanborn** air-operated grease gun. I thought it would be the clear ticket because manually-operated grease guns seem to pick up air in them all the time, which prevents the grease from coming out as it should. However, this model kept getting grease down behind the plunger in the cartridge. I called the company and they sent a new rubber seal for the plunger at no cost. But it didn't help. I ended up with more grease behind the plunger than I used. I finally went back to using a manually-operated grease gun."