

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
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Bruce Adamson, Lebanon, Mo.: “I bought a fake alligator head that floats on farm ponds and is used to deter ducks and geese from staying on your property. It’s called **Gator Guard** and it works great (Roger Gray, 46 MeadowBrook Lane, New Windsor, N.Y. 12553 ph 914 534-7143). I bought two of them after reading about them in FARM SHOW. Last year we had more than 30 geese nesting on our property. They were leaving their calling cards on our parking lots and sidewalks as well as eating our bushes. We floated a Gator Guard in both of our ponds, attaching a line and weight to each one to anchor them.

“After three weeks of use, we had no waterfowl on our property any more. Now geese fly in and land on the grass, walk up to the edge of the pond and stare at the Gator Guards. They honk and flap their wings, but don’t go into the water. We’ve noticed some mallards and coots swimming in the pond, but they leave after a day or two.”

Frank Lipinski, Buckley, Mich.: “My **Westendorf** 3-pt. forklift, which I mounted on my Deere 4240 tractor, is my best buy. It has a lift capacity of 3,750 lbs. I’ve used it to unload semi truck loads of seed and to load

Paul Leavengood, Fresno, Ohio: Paul likes his new **Snap-On** 14.4-volt, 3/8-in. cordless drill/driver. “Our son has one and we liked it so well that we bought one too. It has a lot of power for any job and goes a long time on one charge. It’s handy to use and I like not having to mess with an electric cord. We’re well pleased with it.”

Elvin Kulenkamp, Spring Valley, Minn.: Elvin’s impressed with his 2000 **FARMI** log skidding winch. “The dealer was so confident in this product that he hauled it 100 miles to my farm, set it up, and demonstrated it before I had even agreed to buy anything. I’ve found that this winch performs beyond the manufacturer’s claims and is also easy to use. No problems even though I operate it using a tractor that’s almost twice the recommended size.”

Calvin Tuttle, Newell, Iowa: “My best buy is my 1999 **Honda** 350 4-wheeler ATV. It always starts, even in the coldest weather. I’m 71 years old and supposed to be retired, but I still like to help my sons do chores. This 4-wheeler makes the work a lot more enjoyable.”

Gene Gibbs, Promise City, Iowa: “I’ve used **TISCO** parts since 1965 and have had very few problems with any of them.” (Woods TISCO, W. St. Paul, Minn. ph 651 455-6681; fax 2111).

John Aaron Rissler, New Enterprise, Pa.: John likes his 1970’s **Caterpillar** D4D, which he bought used in 1994 with 1,850 hours on it. “We bought it equipped with a 30-ft., 14,000-lb. center turret crane which we bought used from a steel yard. After removing the crane workings, we made a new hood and track covers and added a dash, turbocharger, and hydraulic pump to drive the transmission, which was originally shaft-driven. It makes a good farm tractor. We also installed a pto on it which we use to operate a silage blower. We’ve had the head off the engine once and planed it, then changed the valves to the kind that are used in turbo-charged engines.”

Alvin Van Den Brink, Fennville, Mich.: “My 1976 **David Brown** 995 tractor equipped with a diesel engine is my best buy. I bought the tractor used. It’s economical and handy to use and has required very few repairs over the years.

“My worst buy is my 1983 **Troy Bilt** Jr. rototiller powered by a 3 1/2 hp Tecumseh gas engine. One problem was that the engine wore out as fast as the tines. Another problem is that I can’t use the rototiller much on clay soil because it crumbles the clay soil too fine. As a result, rain and sun turn the clay to concrete. I replaced both the tines and the engine at the same time, installing a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton. All the Briggs & Stratton engines I’ve ever had have been easy to start and durable with few problems. The rest of the rototiller is okay. The belts are exceptionally good.”

Robert Preuss, Strawberry Point, Iowa: “I’m still farming with the **Deere** tractors that my father bought new in 1968 and 1970 – a 2520, a 2510, a 1020 equipped with a front-end loader, and a 530. They all run nice with very few problems, and if something does go wrong I know how to fix them. I’m 58 years old and have never bought anything new in my life. I take good care of my tractors and keep them in a shed every night.”

John Whipple, Shenandoah, Iowa: “It has done everything I’ve wanted it to do,” reports John, pleased with his 1996 **Westendorf** TA 26 front-end loader. “It takes only a couple of minutes to put on and take off. I’ve used it to move big hay bales and

seed into customers’ trucks.

“My **Knight** 251 manure spreader is built four times stronger than any other spreader I’ve seen. It’s been trouble-free.

“My **Westfield** auger is reasonably priced, well-built, and has a lot of capacity. It runs quiet.”

George Vonderheide, Elgin, Ill.: “My best buy of all time is my 1948 **Case** DC tractor which I bought used 25 years ago. It still runs great today. The engine always starts right up, although sometimes I have to use the hand crank to start it. It has even won a few trophies in tractor pulls that we participate in. They don’t build quality tractors like this any more.”

Rob Joslin, Sidney, Ohio: “It has unbelievable capacity for such a small combine,” says Rob, pleased with his **New Holland** TR 89. It’s equipped with an **Ag Leader** yield monitor which he says is also a “best buy”. “The monitor is pretty accurate and provides good information.”

He lists his **Harvestore** silo as one of his “worst buys” ever. “The first year I had it, our high moisture corn stayed in good condition, but after that I had to have the silo resealed twice a year at a cost of about \$1,000 each time. I also had to have the corn unloader converted to a forage unloading unit because the corn unloader couldn’t get the corn out. To make matters worse my hogs wouldn’t eat the corn. I couldn’t sell the silo to the dealer because he said he already had too many silos sitting empty. I used the silo for about 10 years before I finally gave up on it.”