

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Glenn Wilson, Crittenden, Ky.: "My best buy is my **Weed Eater** blower/vac. The vacuum is equipped with a 4-in. intake attachment and a collection bag. It works great for picking up leaves. It shreds them into a fine mulch. It has cut fall leaf raking by 90 percent. I bought the machine reconditioned at a local lawn mower shop for only \$69. It starts easy, runs well, and gets the job done quickly.

"My worst buy is my **Troy-Bilt** 6 hp, electric start trimmer/mower. The second time I used it the ignition key fell out and got lost. The machine isn't self-propelled which makes it difficult to maneuver over small sticks and irregular surfaces. The trimmer line doesn't last long when it's used alongside a fence. Another problem is that it's hard to hold on course. I do like the offset feature. I paid over \$900 for this machine but I hardly ever use it."

Ron Kielkopf, Fremont, Iowa: "Thanks to FARM SHOW, we have some idea of what to pursue and what to avoid when making capital purchases. Our biggest disappointment over the past few years has been our **GreenStar** GPS yield monitors. We bought our first system in 1996, using it with a Deere 9500 combine in corn and beans and it was not very accurate. Last fall we used a newer system in our Deere 9510 combine but it was not much better. Clearly, there is no accuracy in yield measurement with variations of up to 9 percent within hours of calibration. Our local seed dealer was doing weigh wagon checks and found the GreenStar to be the least accurate among a variety of GPS systems. We intend to make a change this year. We're frustrated at the way Deere has approached the problems with this technology."

Ben Pokorny, Wahoo, Neb.: "I'm not happy with my **Husqvarna** 41 chain saw. It starts easy and cuts good, but when it sits in

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the case both gas and chain oil leak out. Also, it doesn't seem to oil the chain enough because whenever we use it to cut larger logs both the bar and chain get very hot."

Ross Godwin, Minter, Ala.: "My 1999 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a V-8 4800 engine is a best buy. No problems after 6,000 miles. It performs extremely well and is fuel efficient.

"My 1999 **Deere** 177 riding mower equipped with a hydrostatic transmission and 48-in. deck is a best buy. It'll cut twice as much grass as other mowers we've had and has a very short turning radius. It has a comfortable ride and is built tough."

George De Gloppe, Grand Island, N.Y.: George nominates 6-ton wagon gears built by **Pioneer Equipment** (Dalton, Ohio) as his "best buy". "Workmanship is excellent and they're engineered to withstand extreme conditions. I bought two of these units in 1996 and highly recommend them to anyone.

"My worst buy is my 1993 **Ford** F-250 4-WD pickup. It gets only 6 to 8 mpg which I think is terrible. It has had a lot of problems.

The front brakes had to be replaced, the thermostat fell apart inside the manifold, both gas tanks leak, and a U-joint had to be replaced. Also, it's almost impossible to get it out of 4-WD."

Russell Anderson, Covington, La.: "Russell likes his 1998 **Mill Creek** model 25 manure spreader which has a capacity of only 25 bu. "It's the perfect size for our small horse farm. We use our 4-wheeler ATV to pull it. I wish we had bought it years ago. The only problem is that it took months to get it delivered."

Matt Schelling, Orange City, Iowa: "My 1999 **New Holland** HW 320 self-propelled windrower is an industrial quality machine. I've used it in crops and conditions that would stop other machines. Windrow and crimper adjustments are simple to make, and the cab and controls are designed for long hours of comfort. The 110 hp Genesis engine uses only about 3 1/2 gallons of fuel per hour. It's equipped with a 2300 series sickle head."

Richard McClure, West Liberty, Ohio: Richard's impressed with his **Deere** 693 6-row corn head. "It's equipped with plastic snouts which seem to slide through the corn easier and do a better job of picking up down corn than conventional steel snouts. Our neighbor's cows got out and camped in our corn field one night, which resulted in a lot of down corn. However, these snouts were able to pick up most of it."

Lloyd M. Pope, Clear Lake, Iowa: Lloyd likes his **Deere** 6300 MFWD tractor equipped with a Deere 640 SL front-end loader, but says it could use a couple of improvements. "It's an excellent loader tractor. I really like the Power Quad transmission, and the cab is easy to get in and out of. One problem is that it's difficult for the driver to see the drawbar hole. Also, hooking up an implement to the pto shaft is really difficult. You almost need a pipe wrench in order to rotate the shaft."

Fred Markert, Tallula, Ill.: "One of my best buys is my **Agri-Speed** automatic wagon hitch (Bergman Mfg. Co., Box 74, Arthur, Iowa 51431 ph 800 677-8329). It works great and is built for heavy-duty use. The hitch normally mounts on your tractor's drawbar and implement tongue. It consists of two parts. The first is a 'catch loop' that bolts onto the truck bumper. A lift rod mounts at a forward angle on top of the loop. The second part of the hitch bolts onto the back of the tow bar. It consists of a V-shaped guide and a spring-loaded latch that automatically locks onto the catch loop."

Burdette DeZwarte, Knoxville, Iowa: "My worst buy is my **Howse** 10-ft. rotary cutter. I thought it was well built, but after only 40 hours of use the front U-joint went out. Then the U-joint on the main gearbox went out. Then double U-joints on the left side of the machine broke a yoke. The joints on the right side are so badly worn that they have to be replaced. We've always greased this machine at regular intervals according to the operator's manual.

"My best buys are my **Massey Ferguson** 1085 and 265 tractors and my 1983 and 1984 **Honda** Big Red ATVs."

Don Spiceland, Murray, Ky.: "It has plenty of power and is a quality tractor. I'd recommend it to anyone," says Don about his **Kubota** 5400 tractor.

Eugene Steinmetz, Sunman, Ind.: Eugene likes his 1987 **Echo** 330 EVL 16-in.

Reader Gives "Thumbs Up" To New-Style Washing Machine

Don Davis of New Holland, Ohio called FARM SHOW recently to tell us how much he likes his new Staber System 2000 clothes washing machine.

"I thought your readers might like to know about this amazing machine. It uses much less water and detergent than conventional machines. That's important to us because we're on well water with a septic tank system. It's saving us \$20 or more per month in electricity alone. I wasn't aware that a regular washing machine used so much water, but I know now," says Davis.

The Staber machine has a side-mounted drum that loads from the top. The tumble action allows you to wash more laundry per load and do a better job because of the more aggressive cleaning action, says the company. The normal gearbox is eliminated in the new washer which reduces the energy required along with maintenance and repair costs.

The cleaning drum consists of a 6-sided tub inside an 8-sided outer tub.

Laundry is tumbled through a "pool" of water at the bottom of the drum, creating a water pumping action that forces water through the clothes for better cleaning. "Larger items like comforters and throw rugs that would never get clean in a traditional washer are handled easily," says the company. Both inner and outer tubs are constructed of top grade stainless steel for durability and snag-free performance.

The unit uses only 16 gal. of water per load compared to the average 45 to 50 gal. in other washers. Only 1 oz. of detergent is needed per load instead of the average 4 to 6 oz. With less hot water to heat and faster spin speeds, less energy is consumed. In fact, the washer is reported to use 50% less energy than a conventional model.

The company says the tumbling action is actually more gentle on clothes than an agi-

chain saw. "I've used it enough to wear out two bars already. It always starts easy, no matter what the weather or time of year. It handles nice and is easy on the hands and wrists. It's still going strong. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

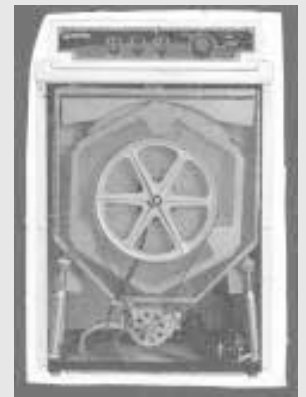
Dwight Gingrich, Reed City, Mich.: A 1977 **Deere** 2640 tractor equipped with a diesel engine and a Deere 146 front-end loader rates as Dwight's "best buy". "It's a reliable tractor that's nice to operate and is fuel efficient. My maintenance costs have been minimal."

Richard T. Wieberg, Freeburg, Mo.: "My **Stihl** chain saw has been a best buy. It's a 015L model which I bought when I built my home more than 22 years ago. It's now on its fourth chain and second bar. I've heated our house with wood heat all these years and burn about four to five cords a year. I have money in the bank due to all the use I've gotten out of this saw. I have two Homelite chain saws and they just collect dust. Nothing cuts like a Stihl."

Walter B. Bowe, Cushing, Wis.: "I had a **SAME** Bufloa 130 4-WD tractor equipped with a 12-speed transmission. It shifts easy. My neighbor and I chopped corn in the same field and each pulled a 2-row chopper. He used an IH 1086 tractor which took 20 gallons more fuel in one day than my Same."



Washer loads from the top like a conventional machine.



Front panel comes off for easy access to all parts for maintenance.

tator. The price of the new machines is comparable to conventional machines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Staber Industries, Inc., 4411 Marketing Place, Groveport, Ohio 43125 (ph 800 848-6200 or 614 836-5995; fax 9524; Website: www.staber.com).

Tommy Minnick, Abingdon, Va.: Tommy says his "worst buy" is his 1998 **Massey-Ferguson** 4243 4-WD tractor equipped with a cab and front-end loader. "The dealer service has been rotten from day one. It took nine weeks to get the loader. The tractor had very poor brakes and the gears scraped all the time. When the tractor was picked up to install the loader - on the tenth week - I told the dealer about the problems but he returned the tractor in the same condition. I tried to contact the dealer throughout the summer with no results.

"I wrote to the state Better Business Bureau but got no help. I finally contacted the regional manager for Massey who sent a representative and a mechanic out to my farm. By this time the air conditioner was leaking and paint was peeling off the tractor. The representative said the dealer would contact me. However, three weeks went by and I heard nothing from anyone.

"Since then I've hired a lawyer who wrote to Massey Ferguson's lawyer. He wrote back and said the only reason the tractor hadn't been fixed was because I wouldn't take it to the dealer. This is incorrect because I was told by the regional representative that they would pick up the tractor. I'm very disappointed in this tractor and in Agco Corp. because they would not stand behind their product."