

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Chris and Lisa Lloyd, Thorhild, Alberta:

“My wife and I really like our **Rinnai** tankless water heater (www.rinnai.us), which we installed in our home about a year and a half ago. It cut our water heating bill by one third.

“One of the things we both really like about it is the flexibility of this system. You can install just one controller for the entire house, or you can have two or more controllers located throughout the house. We installed two control pads – one in each bathroom of our house. They each have a ‘priority button,’ which allows one or the other controller to take priority on the water temperature. Once you’re using hot water in one location, no one else in the house can change the temperature.

“When we give our 3-year-old daughter a bath, we just dial the temperature to 110 and don’t even look at the cold water tap. With this system, we know there’s no way she can scald herself if she happens to crank on the taps because it’s not going to get any hotter.”

“I like to set it to 115 when I have a shower. My wife can flush a toilet or turn on a hot or cold water tap elsewhere in the house, and it doesn’t bother my shower at all. We turn it up to 130 when we run the dishwasher.

the daylight shaken out of you. The doors rattle like a lumber wagon. It’s not like back in the 1973 to 1979 era, when the Ford F-250 XLTs and F-350’s had class and a comfortable ride.”

Justin Smith, Albany, Ohio: Justin nominates his **Shaver** HD10 post driver as his “best buy”. “I’m used to putting up fences the old way, where no matter how much you tamped the post it never got ‘tight’ enough. However, with this post driver you don’t end up with a sloppy post. Also, it works fast and reduces my fence building time by more than half. I wish I had bought one a long time ago.”

Keith Switzer, Cromwell, Minn.: “My 2006 **P & J** 36-ft. gooseneck trailer has good quality paint, nice ramps that are easy to use, good quality landing gear, and quality deck material.

“**GM** 3.1 and 3.4 V-6 engines made from 1996 to 2002 have experienced failure of intake gaskets and head gaskets. They seem to have problems between 70,000 and 100,000 miles. Repair costs are \$700 or more. If you ignore the coolant loss, you’ll lose the engine. Some blame GM’s Dex-Cool; others blame poor design. I’ve done so many intake gaskets in my auto repair shop that I think I can do it blind folded.”

Gabe Aquirre, Blue Diamond Glass Co., Goodman, Mo.: “My 1969 **Dodge** 1-ton pickup is a best buy. I still use it for my business. It’s on its third engine. Otherwise it has gone through three sets of brakes, one rear end bearing, and a rebuilt front axle. However, the transmission has never been touched.”

Digger O’ Dell, Cuba, Mo.: “My 2004 **Land Pride** 3-pt. mounted, 7-ft. wide reverse rototiller is my best buy. I used to plow and then disk once or twice and then use a harrow to get a good seedbed for my pastures. But with the reverse tine tiller it’s one pass and I’m done. It has a unique design that lets it till the ground, bury the trash and leaves a fine, level seedbed. Because it’s a reverse tine it won’t bump along on hard or rocky ground, but instead digs in and throws the dirt over the top so it can be chewed up again. It’s built stout and is one heck of a piece of equipment.”

Roger Vanco, Gallipolis, Ohio: “My **Massey Ferguson** 231 is the most uncomfortable tractor I’ve ever driven. It’s very hard to get on and off, and the clutch and brakes are unhandy to operate and a little dangerous. All the controls and levers seem to be poking out at the driver.”

S. Wooldridge, Fletcher, Okla.: “My **New Holland** T35 is a handy tractor for its size. It has a loader and does a good job. I can put it in either 2 or 4-WD. The hydrostatic drive makes this tractor easy to operate. I use it with a King Cutter rototiller which leaves the soil in beautiful condition. I’m well pleased with this tractor.”

Boyd Baker, Freeport, Penn.: “My 2006 **Deere** 5520 tractor is my best buy. It has a lot of power, is well balanced, has good traction, and runs smooth.

“My **Poulan** Pro 310 chainsaw is my worst buy. It’s hard to start and doesn’t run right even though I’ve taken it back to the dealer several times. Also, it uses a lot of gas. It takes three to four tanks of gas just to trim the limbs from a 14-in. dia. pine tree.”

Lee Campbell, Dellrose, Tenn.: “My 2005 **Massey Ferguson** 4-WD tractor equipped with a 16 by 16 power shuttle transmission is my best buy. No problems. I love the shuttle transmission. The cab is very roomy with a good layout of all the controls. I also like the buttons on the rear fenders for operating the lift arms. They help when hooking up to implements.

“The **Dunlop** Radial Rover tires I bought for my truck are my worst buy. These tires have less than 15,000 miles on

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy
Send your nominations to:
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Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
www.FARMSHOW.com,
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Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

“The Rinnai water heater conserves space compared to a hot water tank because it hangs on the wall and is only 14 in. wide by 24 in. tall by 9 in. deep.

“It’s actually called an ‘endless hot water system.’ You still have to run the cold water out of the line before you get hot water, but then you have an endless supply of hot water.

“At \$1,700, the initial cost is a little over twice the cost of a conventional hot water tank, but with the savings it gives you, it pays that back in two to three years.”

Dean Helling, Golden Valley, N. Dak.: “I bought a **Workhorse** power-boost module two years ago for use on my 2004 Ford Super Duty pickup (Southcoast Performance, ph 888 223-2396; www.morepowerlessfuel.com). It increased power and fuel efficiency. When I bought a 2006 Ford F-250 Super Duty with a 6-cyl. diesel, I called the company to ask if I could transfer the module to the new pickup. They said they had an updated module for that pickup and guaranteed I would get better mileage, perhaps up to 5 mpg better. But I didn’t want to spend \$700 for a new module, so I made the transfer.

“It took only about 10 minutes to switch the module from one engine to the other. It works good, and I know the fuel efficiency has improved by at least 2 mpg. Also, this pickup now has unbelievable power which comes in handy when pulling a trailer. I’m getting 19 to 20 mpg on the highway and 14 mpg pulling a trailer.”

Driskel Bros., Nevada, Mo.: “I bought my 1999 **Vermeer** 1250 BC wood chipper used with about 1,000 hours on it. It’s my best buy. No problems with the motor or grinder. It’s a good machine.

“My 1980 **Ford** F-350 pickup is a real lemon. Instead of riding in comfort, you get