

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

like the ones found on snowmobiles, which is much better suited for a work machine. It has low gearing for slow speed, high torque pulling, and there's no belt to wear out.

"My 2003 **Polaris** 700cc Sportsman 4-WD ATV is my worst buy. It was actually too powerful and could go dangerously fast - easily up to 55 mph. Also, it was noisy and vibrated excessively. The machine leaked coolant so I returned it to the dealer twice for repairs. However, it still leaked. The battery 'cooked over' one day while I was plowing snow, using an electric winch to raise and lower the plow. The frame around the battery area, as well as the rear suspension, became corroded. The Polaris snowplow I used on it was built too light for this machine, and as a result I bent it several times. I had to weld extra supports on it. I never really liked this machine and was glad when my Honda dealer took it on trade."

Gerald Kandell, Clark Lake, Mich.: Gerald nominates his 2005 **Campbell Hausfeld** Husky Pro compressor as his "worst buy". "The tires were low so I put air in them. However, when I went to move the unit it rolled away from me and slipped from my hands, smashing the air controls. We had to replace the parts at a cost of about \$60. We bought this unit at Home Depot but they didn't carry the parts we needed. The machine has no extra leg to help stabilize it. It's very top heavy and shouldn't be used as a mobile compressor the way it's designed."

Tom Woods, Creston, Iowa: "In 2000 I bought a used 1994 **GM** 1/2-ton extended cab 4-WD pickup with about 125,000 miles on it. It now has more than 240,000 miles on it but still has the original engine. It's a best buy."

"My 2005 **Polaris** 400 Sportsman 4-WD ATV actually rides smoother than most cars and performs well. I use it to check on cows and calves and to do other chores. My only complaint is that it has plastic composite racks."

Brian Doman, Akron, N.Y.: "It has awesome power and will outpull any truck I've ever owned," says Brian, pleased with his 2004 **Chevrolet** 2500 pickup equipped with a Duramax engine and Allison transmission. "No problems at all."

Billy Joe Owen, Lebanon, Mo.: Billy Joe says his 2004 **EZ Boardwalk** 16-ft., 24 hp



bandsaw mill is his "best buy" (Enden, Mo. ph 573 633-2135). "This bandsaw mill is easy to operate - with the angled design of the blade it pulls itself right through the log. It's an economical machine and well worth the money."

Marvin Jay Wagner, Montgomery, Ind.: "My **Ford** 8N tractor is my worst buy. We had to buy more spark plugs for it than you could ever imagine. Does anyone know what causes this problem?"

Walter Fifelski, Wayland, Mich.: "I like **Gorilla Glue**. It's superior to other adhesives because it sticks to just about anything. If you get nicks, cuts or split skin on your fingers, just place a drop of this glue on the affected area. It'll take about an hour for the glue to set, but it will stay on for three to four days. However, you won't even know you have it on, and by the end of that time the cut will have healed. If you wipe the spout clean on the bottle before replacing the cap, a small bottle will last a long time."

Steve Parker, Beaver, Okla.: "The **T-L** center pivot hydraulic drive system I bought in 2003 is my best buy. This system has no driveshafts or U-joints and requires no electricity. I use my well engine to power the hydraulic pump on the system. Again, no electricity. The machine moves continuously without the 'start and stop' that you get with electric-operated machines. I have heavy soil so I purchased **Agri-tracks** to help eliminate deep tracks. I'm now into my second year of using the machine to irrigate permanent grass, and the tracks are no more than 5 to 6 in. deep. My neighbors without Agri-tracks are getting stuck."

"My worst buy is **Just For Copper** solderless copper bonding adhesive. It's made by **Jaco** and is advertised as the easiest, fastest and safest way to permanently install brass and copper fittings onto rigid copper tubing. However, I found that it doesn't work. In a situation where the 'glued' joint won't be disturbed or moved it might work, but my fear was that I'd come home to find it flooded. Use your torch and solder to be safe."

Charles Fuller, La Grange, Ga.: "My 2005 **Bolens** 38-in. riding mower is my worst buy. It has cost me \$350 in repairs. The transmission locked in reverse gear, the gas tank had a crack in it and had to be replaced, and a belt broke while I was cutting grass. Now it's on its fourth set of blades. The first set lasted only one week. The headlight bulbs have been replaced twice, and the ignition switch shorted out."

Philip Pippenger, Churubusco, Ind.: "This loader tractor is like a hired hand," says Philip about his **Allis Chalmers** D15 tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "It's handy to use and is always there when I need it."

A **Flex-A-Bed** adjustable bed rates as his "worst buy". "I'm paralyzed from the waist down so we needed an adjustable bed. The motors on it went bad three times within a year. It takes six weeks to get the motors repaired. The bed is too high for my wheelchair so we made a ramp that has to be moved every day."

John C. Haldemann, Chinook, Montana: "My **Buhler Allied** 795 front-end loader equipped with 'true self-leveling' and 'cushion ride' is a best buy. It works well and has quick tach brackets that make hooking up to different attachments a fast and easy job. I'd recommend the cushion ride system for any loader. It's fantastic when going through rough fields with heavy loads. Visibility is very good, and the bucket and grapple fork are built heavy. We use it mostly with a 2-bale **Hydra Grabber** from the **Hydra-Bed** company that stacks two 3 by 3 by 8 bales (Country Trailer Sales, Ludell, Kansas ph 785 626-9200; regan @countrytrailer.com). It greatly speeds up the bale-stacking process."

W. Foley, Kellyville, Okla.: "My 1972 **Deere** 4020 tractor has more than 7,000 hours on it with no problems."

"My **Reese** mower is well engineered and cuts heavy hay, but the welding on it is bad. We almost need to keep a welder in the field every time we used it. We've repaired just about all the welds."

James Mutchler, Flippin, Ark.: James is impressed with his **Honda** EW 170 generator/welder. "After it sat in my shop for 10 years with the same gas in it, it started on the second pull. I bought this unit new more than 20 years ago. To winterize all my equipment, I put **Myster** mineral oil in them and also fuel stabilizer."

William M. Fletcher, Steamboat Springs, Colo.: "My **Deltran** battery tenders have paid for themselves several times over in replacement battery costs on vehicles and equipment that receive only occasional use."



Scott Cerveny likes the **Hutchinson** 70-ft. squeeze belt conveyor he uses at the **Aurora Co-Op** in **Aurora, Neb.** It can easily move 8,000 to 12,000 bu. of grain per hour.

Squeeze Belt Conveyor

Higher piles, faster operation, scattered-out fines, less grain damage, greater safety, fewer parts, smoother operation, and longer life are some of the many favorable comments we heard from **Scott Cerveny**, **Aurora, Neb.**, about the **Hutchinson** 70-ft. squeeze belt conveyor that he uses at the **Aurora Co-op** in **Aurora, Neb.** It was first introduced in February 2004 (ph 800 523-6993 or 785 632-2162; www.hutchweb.com).

Cerveny says the conveyor is a winner because it can move 8,000 to 12,000 bu. of grain per hour, and do it with ease. Grain shoots out of the conveyor similar to the way water flows out the end of a big pipe. That means the conveyor is carrying and scattering fines along with the grain. **Dave Prinz**, president of **Prinz Grain** at **West Point, Neb.**, who also calls the **Hutchinson** conveyor a best buy,

Gary D. Waggoner, Deepwater, Mo.: "Our 1991 **Dodge** pickup equipped with a **Cummins** diesel engine is my best buy. It has required only minor repairs and upkeep in more than 300,000 miles."

"My 1991 **Ford** Explorer is my worst buy. We've replaced the motor, transmission, air conditioner, and a lot of other minor parts. In just 120,000 miles, we've spent 1 1/2 times as much money to keep it running as we did to buy it."

John Anderson, Grand Coulee, Wash.: "My 2001 **GM** 3/4-ton 2-door pickup equipped with a **Duramax** engine is my best buy. It averages 18 mpg in city driving, about 17 mpg on the highway, and about 14 mpg when pulling a trailer. It has more than 97,000 miles on it but has required only routine maintenance. The engine has unbelievable power, and the Allison transmission is the best. The only problem is the high price of diesel fuel."

David A. Medley, Gordon, Ga.: David's impressed with his 2005 **New Holland** TC33D tractor. "This tractor has hydrostatic transmission, 4-WD, and Super-Steer which makes it much quicker and easier when working in small spaces and on slopes."

Simon Gordon, Irvington, Ky.: "My 1963 **Massey Ferguson** 35 deluxe tractor is my best buy of all time. I bought it used in 1999. The only problem was with a leak in the gas tank, which was promptly fixed. No problems after that."

"My 1995 **Troy-Bilt** rototiller is my worst buy. It doesn't dig right and jumps out of the ground whenever I try to use it. It also burns up belts. I talked to the company and tried everything I could to solve these problems, without success. I won't buy another one."

Richard S. Gilbertson, Fulda, Minn.: Richard's the proud owner of a 1973 **Deere** 210 garden tractor. "I've used this tractor to

points out that he had no hot spots in a 250,000-bu. pile of corn that had been deposited there by a 72-ft. squeeze belt.

"We didn't have that consolidation of fines in certain spots that we get with augers, and the unit spread out the grain better," says **Prinz**.

Cerveny adds that the conveyor has few moving parts, it doesn't bang and clang when running empty, and there's very little wear compared to augers.

Cerveny says there's also less damage with corn and a lot fewer splits with soybeans. That's because the crop is simply carried instead of being tumbled and rolled. In addition, a belt conveyor is much safer to be around, as there's less chance of grabbing clothing or catching a finger.

mow many lawns and also to do thatching work. It has about 3,000 hours on it. I've also used it to plow snow for myself and others. It's a fantastic machine."

Art E. Crary, Huddleston, Va.: A 2004 **Hesston** disc mower that he bought used in 2005 rates as Art's "best buy". "We use it to cut about 60 to 70 acres of hay, two cuttings a year, with no problems. We replaced the cutting blades once. This machine reduces our mowing time almost by half compared to our old hay conditioner."

"Our worst buy is the **Industrial Tools** suspension seat we bought at **Northern Tools** and installed on our **Ford** 5000 tractor. After installing the seat my son-in-law went out to ted hay. He reached down to adjust the seat back a notch and it slid back completely off the tractor. Fortunately, he was able to grab the fender to keep from falling into the tedder. That's when we realized the seat has no stops and will fall off the front or back of the base without warning. This seat is not only cheaply built but dangerous. I welded stops on both sides of the seat so this problem won't happen again."

Delbert Hayes, Norwalk, Iowa: "I like my 2005 **DeWalt** 18-volt cordless 1/2-in. drive impact wrench. It has 300 ft. lbs. of torque. It's real handy - I take it with me everywhere to remove wheels and to drive 3/8-in. lag screws when installing fence braces."

"My 2004 **Alemite** 12-volt cordless grease gun is convenient and works fast for greasing corn heads and combines."

Jerry Mankowski, Wild Rose, Wis.: "I haven't spent one penny on repairs," says Jerry about his 2001 **Sears Craftsman** riding mower equipped with a 22 hp, V-twin, Kohler Pro engine, automatic transmission, and 50-in. deck. "I use it to cut four acres every week. It still has the original blades and belts."