

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Ken Voigt, Wausau, Wis.: “My best buy is my German Shepard Shadow. He is trained to unlatch two latches when I have my hands full. He gets up on his back legs and can unlatch both the shop door and the kitchen door with his paw and pull it open from the inside. He can also hit the screen door latch on the porch with his nose and then use his paw to open the door.”

Shadow is the third dog that Voigt has trained to open doors (all three from Jerland Kennels, Barren, Wis.) but the first to train himself to stop playing fetch. “I cut circles of 3/4-in. plywood and throw for him. When he gets tired of chasing them, he stacks them up like hamburgers and carries them to the house.” Best of all, says Voigt, “He listens to everything I say and never talks back.”

Mary Decker, New Berlin, N.Y.: Mary’s impressed with the **Easy Walker** sports shoes she put on on her horse (Easy Walker USA, Chetek, Wis. Ph 866 925-53279; www.easywalkerhorseshoes.com). According to company literature, Easy Walker shoes are the most advanced synthetic horseshoes on the market. They have a polymer base that closely resembles the natural hoof wall. The highly elastic material will absorb impact and

den, Mo. ph 573 633-2135; fax 573 633-2004). “My experience with this mill has been very satisfying. It’s a lot of mill for the money and comes standard with a 20 hp Honda engine, four log dogs, and a trailer package. I can cut up to a 16 1/2-ft. log without having to buy an extension. This mill cuts very true.”

Darrin Ehret, Deep River, Iowa: Darrin likes his 2005 **Bobcat B300D** tractor loader and backhoe. “This is the first backhoe I’ve purchased personally, although I’ve operated many others. It has smooth hydraulics, a heated cab, a lot of power for its size, good lifting power, and a comfortable cab and controls. I only wish this machine had a curved boom and faster ground speed.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 2005 **Simplicity 2050** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 20 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and a 50-in. deck. “It has spent more time in the shop for repairs to hydraulic pump leaks than it has spent mowing. I paid \$4,600 for it and have less than 25 hours on it.”

Doug Phillips, Zearing, Iowa: “Two years ago I bought a used, 475-bu. ‘hydraulic boost’ gravity wagon made by **Triggs Mfg.** It’s my best buy. I use it at harvest time on both corn



and soybeans. The wagon is probably 20 years old and I don’t know if this company is still in business or not. I really like the hydraulic-boost feature because it lets me dump grain a lot faster. A hydraulic cylinder at each end of the wagon is used to tilt the bed over to one side. All I do is hook the hydraulics to the tractor, raise the wagon, and dump it.

“Normally, a wagon of this size would be able to hold only about 375 bushels, but because one side of the wagon is square it has enough room for an additional 100 bushels. I’ve seen similar types of side-dump wagons used by vegetable growers.”

Tom Mack, Westville, Ind.: “I haven’t had any problems with this pickup, and that’s the way a truck should be,” says Tom, pleased with his 2004 **Chevrolet Silverado Z71** pickup.

“My **Deere 425** lawn tractor is my worst buy, because it’s a major ordeal to get the mower started every time I use it. It’s been this way from day one. The engine starts fine but it will stall more than a dozen times before the blades engage. The dealer has been no help and charges me \$50 every time he looks at it - even under warranty. He cleaned out the deck one time and replaced a defective switch another time, but the problem still persists. Now the tractor is out of warranty so I’m stuck. It’s giving me marriage problems, because I have to force my wife to use this tractor when she’d rather use my old Wheelhorse.”

Edward J. Schauer, Prairie View, Texas: “The first new vehicle I’ve bought in 19 years turned out to be a worst buy. My 2003 **Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Sportside** pickup is equipped with a 6-cyl. engine. The air conditioning pipes are routed so that they drip on the distributor, causing electrical system failure. This has left me stranded along the road at least once every 10,000 miles ever since I bought the pickup. The company was satisfied once they did the recall and warranty work, but that didn’t fix the problem. Now that the warranty has expired they expect me to pay every time I bring it in to have the same problem repaired. This is the most unreliable vehicle I’ve ever owned.”

Jim Franklin, Jonesville, Mich.: “My

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
the survey form on our website at
www.FARMSHOW.com,
or E-mail your comments to:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

vibration. A mini-heartbar on the shoe protects the frog and also improves blood circulation, which stimulates growth. Patented nail holes provide maximum grip for the nail head, while three preset nail slots provide for safe nailing. Adjustable clips help stabilize the foot while reducing shear forces on the nails.

Mike Hoy, Hedrick, Iowa: Mike likes his 2004 **Cub Cadet RZT 50** riding mower equipped with a 50-in. deck. “It’s a great mower and has reduced my mowing time almost by half. It always starts right up and runs great. It has a lot of power, and the deck washing system keeps grass from building up and sticking to the deck. It makes mowing a fun job.”

On the minus side, “I put a set of **Goodyear Wrangler RT/S** tires on my 1996 Chevy S-10 pickup. Right away, I noticed a lot of vibration at highway speeds. A mechanic tried to rebalance the tires but with no luck. I took the pickup to a different Goodyear dealer and they replaced two of the tires because they couldn’t be balanced. The mechanic said the tires were so out of balance that I was ‘driving on eggs’. I’m done with Goodyear.”

Dale M. Walker, Jr., Flemington, N.J.: Dale nominates his 2004 **Landtrac 390 HST** 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader as his “best buy”. “It’s built with the user in mind - everything is on it is very handy and reliable. It fits right in on our farm.

“My worst buy is a bolt-on hoist kit designed to turn a pickup into a dump truck, which I bought from **Northern Tool**. Nothing matched up according to the directions. Installing it turned into a big mess. I called the dealer five times but got no help. After some drilling, torching and welding, eventually I was able to get the hoist to work.”

Tim Chrisman, Centralia, Mo.: Tim likes his 2005 **EZ Boardwalk** band sawmill (Em-