

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Elliott Ertman, Roanoke, Va.: “My best buy came from a seed company called **Pine Tree Garden Seeds** (ph 207 926-3400; www.superseeds.com). This company offers great service and a wide variety of seeds including vegetables, herbs, flowers, gourds, ornamental grasses, grains, etc. They offer a number of unusual fruits and vegetables including heirloom tomatoes, mushroom growing kits, Middle Eastern vegetables, and much more. And, they sell interesting gardening books and implements; bird feeders, hummingbird feeders, natural skin care products, etc.

“The company has an experienced, knowledgeable work force and treats its customers the way most companies did 50 years ago. They’re not a big company, but for service they can’t be beat. To show you the kind of service they provide, I had a problem with a packet that had the wrong kind of seed. I called the company to let them know what happened, and by the next day the replacement seed package was in my mailbox. We’re talking here about a \$1 package of seed! I really appreciate this kind of service.”

Jayson Williams, Mulvane, Kansas: “My worst buy is my **Horizon Products** grease



most people heat with propane. I wanted to stick with wood, but I soon found that I couldn’t split enough wood using a maul, the way I did when I was younger. After shopping around for a splitter that would fit my needs, I settled on the DR unit. The company provided an excellent packet describing the product. When I got the splitter I found it to be well designed and well built, and it performed even better than advertised. It has definitely made my best buy list.”

Lynn Lucius, Vardaman, Miss.: “My 2003 **New Holland TC35A 4-WD** tractor equipped with a **Bush Hog** front-end loader is my best buy. It has almost 500 hours on it and has been a pleasure to operate. The loader is great for feeding cows and loading mulch. We also use the tractor to mow and to haul logs. It has only 35 hp, but with 4-WD it can do a lot of jobs that would normally take a bigger machine.

“This tractor has had a couple of problems including an electrical short and a burned-out clutch, but the clutch problem was probably due more to an inexperienced driver than to equipment failure. The dealer was more than helpful with the warranty and got the tractor going again. I had been a loyal Deere customer but I switched to the blue New Holland color for price, and I couldn’t be happier.”

John C. Reckart, Bruceton Mills, W. Va.: “Our 2005 **Deere 990 4-WD** utility tractor is our worst buy. As soon as we start it up the engine puts out a lot of foul smelling smoke. Exhaust exits against the front axle and bounces back into the radiator and operator’s station. I can’t put this tractor in gear without braking unless I pause for at least 10 seconds, which makes it unhandy for loader work. Both fenders are rusting at the seams. All these problems were brought to the attention of our dealer, but all we got was lip service. We solved the exhaust problem by installing a vertical exhaust pipe. It cost \$38 for materials and an hour of labor.”

Bobby E. Lucas, Jefferson, S.C.: “My best buy is my 1966 **Ford F-100** pickup. It has almost 400,000 miles on it but still gets me wherever I need to go with almost no problems. It still runs great.

“In 1978 I bought a used 1967 **Ford Falcon** station wagon with 95,000 miles on it. Over the years I’ve put about 70,000 miles on it, yet my total cost for repairs during all that time has been only \$98. That money went toward a battery, a wheel bearing, and a \$15 carburetor.”

Jim Franklin, Jonesville, Mich.: “My best buy is my 1987 **MTD 18 1/2 hp** riding mower equipped with a 46-in. deck. Over the years it has needed only new belts and blades, a couple of new batteries, and a new deck shaft. This mower is still in great working condition. We use it to cut two to three acres a week.

“My 1994 **Ford 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a 300 cu. in., in-line 6-cylinder engine and a 5-speed manual transmission is a best buy. It has about 140,000 trouble-free miles on it. It’s a great pickup.”

R.W. Allen, Clare, Mich.: “My best buy is my **Echo 602VL** chain saw which I bought as a discontinued model in 1980. We used wood to heat our home for 14 years, and this saw cut almost all of it.

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,
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Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

buster, which is supposed to free up dirt and hardened grease in grease zerks. It consists of a metal housing with a piston inside it that you pound on to inject fluid into the zerk. I bought it about a year ago but could never get it to work right. I’ve tried using it many times with different kinds of oils and lubricants, but without success. Finally I just gave up on it.”

Raymond E. Miller, Paris, Tenn.: “I operate a small welding shop and am well pleased with my 11-in. **FMB Triton** bandsaw (ph 800 323-7503; www.patmooneysaws.com). No other saw in its class can compete



with this one. It’s powered by a 2 hp electric motor and has a recirculating fluid cooling system that allows me to cut through 4-in. solid metal in only 2 1/2 to 3 minutes. It has a 37-in. working height and can cut at up to a 60 degree angle, which makes it a pleasure to operate.”

Rick Garner, Winnemucca, Nevada: Rick likes his **DR** electric-over-hydraulic bench top wood splitter. “Having heated with wood for most of my life, I prefer it to gas. When I retired in 1995 and moved to the high desert area of northern Nevada, I found that