

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Joe Ruppnick, Soldier, Kansas: “I traded an old broken down Vermeer G baler for a new Vermeer Rebel 5400 baler. It has trouble starting bales and plugs up all the time. Also, the electric tie won’t go all the way to the middle and instead would tie only about a foot on each end. The company people came out and made excuses. They told me either the windrow was too narrow, or the hay too heavy, or that I was going too fast. No matter what I did to try to solve the problem, nothing worked. I sent photos to the company but never heard back from them.

“This year I used it to make only 40 bales, yet the baler plugged up seven times. My dealer said the problem was that the hay was harder to bale this year. This is the worst machine I’ve ever bought. I had to buy hay in 2003 and 2004 and now I’ll have to buy hay again this year. The amount of hay that I’ve had to buy would have made three baler payments. If I knew then what I know now, I would never have traded my broken G model for this machine.”

Tim Dickerson, Shady Spring, W. Va.: Tim owns a 2004 Deere L130 lawn tractor equipped with a Kohler 27 hp engine. “After mowing one day, we returned the tractor to

a salesman, but I liked the product well enough that I became a representative for the company.”

Bob Cooper, Ignacio, Colo.: Bob likes his 2004 Nissan Frontier crew cab 4-WD pickup. “It’s comfortable, has a lot of power, is trouble-free, and dealer service has been great. This is the fourth Nissan I’ve tried to wear out.

“My 2004 Bonanza 12-ft. bumper pull livestock trailer is my worst buy. We’ve pulled it about 2,500 miles and it’s only a year old, but already it looks like it’s 10 years old. The paint is peeling off the front and fenders, the trim strips covering the screw channels are gone, and the left front tire is nearly bald. Numerous calls to the factory have only led to unfulfilled promises and frustration.”

Gary Noblit, Jonesville, Mich.: “I like my Sears Craftsman ratchet wrenches with directional levers. They’re not cheap, but the narrow width lets me use these tools in hard-to-get-at areas. It takes only a small degree of movement to operate the ratchets, and they have a high polish for easy cleanup. It’s easier than chasing after sockets.”

Gloria Parks, Ekalaka, Mont.: “My 2005 Kubota RTV900 Worksite is a really nice tractor. It has power steering and a smooth ride, allowing me to cover a lot of ground in great comfort. The hydraulic hoist works great. The only drawback is a lack of power, especially on hillsides. We need more power in this rough country.

“My 2004 Yamaha Rhino wouldn’t start. It took 8 to 15 tries even in warm weather. I couldn’t get the gas cap on so I placed a baggie over the spout and jammed the cap on, but then gas leaked out all over. I couldn’t ride this tractor in the mud, as it was very unstable. We took it back, paid a month’s lease, and got our money back.”

Christopher Citrino, Philadelphia, Penn.: “My worst buy is my GM Sierra 3500 4-WD dump truck equipped with a Duramax diesel engine. Within 11,000 miles I have had each fuel pump replaced at least once. I’m on my third set of front tires, due to a broken ball joint when I bought the vehicle. Also, I’ve been towed twice after running out of fuel because when the fuel pumps fail they short out the fuel gauge. Worst of all, I’ve been without a work truck for 45 days this year because of all the time this truck has been in the shop.

“My Sirius Satellite radio adds a new dimension to both long and short road trips. There’s a tremendous variety of programming to listen to and I rarely lose the satellite signal, even in the mountains of West Virginia.”

John Nelson, Scotts Mills, Oregon: John’s the satisfied owner of a 2005 Mahindra 2615 4-by-Mitsubishi, assembled in the U.S. and equipped with a U.S.-built front-end loader, backhoe, and tires. “I couldn’t have been more satisfied if it had been custom-built for me. It has great control, access, and performance, with plenty of room in the operator’s area - absolutely the most in this tractor’s class. Before buying this tractor we shopped for months and drove all the major brands. Overall this tractor is the best value on the market, by far. Just be sure to find a knowledgeable, professional and helpful dealer.”

Arlin E. Smith, Jefferson, Texas: “My 2005 Toyota Scion XA car is my best buy. It’s Toyota’s new low-price brand so it only cost \$14,300. Everywhere I go people tell me they just love this little car. It has 15-in. tires, cruise control, automatic transmission, electric windows, a Pioneer DVD and Radio system, rear defrost and wiper, and plenty of room inside. My son, who is 6 ft. and weighs 260 lbs., fits nicely into either the front or rear seat. Best of all, it gets 38 mpg.”

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:
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the barn. It caught fire and burned down the entire barn and all of our other farm equipment. A \$2,800 tractor ended up costing us tens of thousands of dollars in lost equipment and time.”

Keith Schole, Pickardville, Alberta: “I love my Deere 4450 tractor because it has run so reliably for so long. It had 4,400 hours on it when I bought it used in 1999, and now it has 12,040 hours on it. The engine has never been touched and besides general upkeep, the only replacement parts needed have been a new hydraulic pump and a rebuilt quad range transmission. All other parts are original. I use synthetic motor oil at a 350-hour change interval, and I never have to add oil between changes. The 4450 is my main farm tractor, so it has a loader on it. I use it for cultivation, seeding, haying, loader work, etc. What with all the trading that goes on, I don’t think a lot of people keep their tractors long enough to really know if they’re any good. I sure like mine - it hasn’t let me down yet.”

Ivan Anderson, New Albany, Ind.: “My Kioto D35 equipped with a front-end loader is a good tractor. It has a lot of power, and the loader is easy to hook up.”

Bob Clark, Limestone, Tenn.: “One of the best buys I’ve ever made is my 2004 Stihl FS85 string trimmer. We purchased 12 overgrown acres in northeastern Tennessee and used this string trimmer to clear much of it - especially in ditches and areas inaccessible by tractor. The saw has several hundred hours on it but it still starts on the first or second pull and runs flawlessly. This year I replaced the FS85 model with an FS110 model.”

Rodney Graham, Hunt, N.Y.: “My CMC 30-ft. dia. drying bin is my best buy. It lets me keep harvesting without having to wait for the dryer to catch up with the combine. The drying system also retains the test weight of whatever commodity I’m drying. I’m not