

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Jim Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.: “My Gentle Leader head collar works like a charm on my 70-lb. German Shepherd cross (www.gentleleader.com; ph 888 640-8840). With any other lead, let him see a deer, and he’s gone like a ton of bricks over the side of the road, and you’re along for the ride. With the Gentle Leader, I think a deer could walk past his nose, and he wouldn’t move. The head collar isn’t a muzzle, but rather applies pressure to the back of the head and around the muzzle. It restrains him without hurting him in any way.”

R. Kennedy Davis, Imperial, Penn.: “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**

2003 **Kubota** BX1500 tractor equipped with a 48-in. mower and **Meg-Mo** mower blades is my best buy (www.meg-mo.com; ph 815 625-0125). I’ve owned a lot of small tractors over the years, but this one is the best yet. I use it to cut my two acres of lawn and also to mow for two of my sons next door, cutting a total of six acres. It uses only 1 1/2 gal. of fuel each week and, because of the Meg-Mo blades, I don’t have to sweep the lawn any more. They mulch everything up. The tractor has a comfortable ride and is easy to get on and off. I have bad legs but have no problem getting on and off this tractor. My doctor told me I would never be able to operate a tractor again but I fooled him with my Kubota.”

Brian D. Gardiner, Mallorytown, Ontario: “My **Troybilt** rototiller is the best rototiller I’ve ever owned. It can break up sod in only three passes, leaving a seedbed that’s ready to plant. It takes only one hand to operate this unit with ease. I haven’t had any problems with the body of this machine. However, it’s powered by a 6 hp **Tecumseh** engine and every time I use it I have to adjust the carburetor just to keep it running. Another problem is that the governor keeps blowing out, causing the engine to run wide open. The new **Troybilt** tillers use **Briggs** and **Stratton** or **Honda** engines, and I wish this one did, too. This will be the last **Tecumseh** engine I’ll ever own. I operate mainly **Briggs** & **Stratton** and some **Honda** engines in my other equipment with no problems.”

James Symynshen, Arborg, Manitoba: “My 2002 **Bombardier** Traxter XT ATV is my best buy. It’s easy to get on and off, has a lot of power, and the 4-wheel drive is terrific. It has a big 22-liter gas tank and is a fuel efficient machine. I use it on my farm like a small tractor.”

David Richburg, Manning, S.C.: “I

bought a 1991 **New Holland** TR 86 combine used three years ago and it’s my best buy. This combine now has more than 3,000 hours on it and has many more to go. It’s easy to service and repair and also easy to operate. My dealer said it’s painted yellow to be seen and be proud of.

“My **Sleep Number** mattress lives up to its claims. I sleep good on it all night long, waking up able to get out of bed with little stiffness. It’s much more comfortable than our old mattress because it’s filled with air and can easily be adjusted. My wife agrees with me. We really like it.”

Dennis Eft, Secor, Ill.: “My 2004 **Deere** 2210 4-WD compact tractor equipped with a 23 hp, 3-cyl. diesel engine is a real work-horse. I bought it equipped with a quick-tach front-end loader and a quick-tach bucket, which comes as standard equipment. All the control levers for it are well placed. This tractor turns as sharp as a garden tractor and will go almost anywhere that a garden tractor will go.”

He says his 1999 **Ford** F-250 4-WD 3/4-ton pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine and automatic transmission is his “worst buy”. “It has more than 112,000 miles on it but is a poor excuse for a 3/4-ton truck. I previously owned 1995 and 1996 models equipped with Power Stroke engines and they were built much better. This model has far less power and less load carrying capacity. The only improvement it offers is in ride quality, but it comes at the expense of load capacity.”

Chris Mathison, Grand Cherries, La.: “My **Easley** ‘yearling model’ livestock trailer is the best built livestock trailer I’ve ever been around, and I’ve been around quite a few. Whoever designed it must have had a lot of experience working with cattle on horseback. All the parts that may need to be replaced through the years are designed so that the entire trailer doesn’t have to be taken apart in order to change them out. The handy features of this trailer are too many to mention.”

Dennis Wile, Woodbury, Penn.: Dennis likes his **Lincoln** battery-operated grease gun. “I’m an owner/operator truck driver and farm as well. I do my own maintenance and this grease gun makes routine maintenance so much quicker. I wouldn’t be without it.”

Mark S. Yax, Solon, Ohio: “I like my 2004 **Chevrolet** Silverado 1500 2-WD pickup equipped with a 5.3-liter V-8 engine with 295 hp. It’s equipped with a towing package with a 3:73 rear end and has an 8,400-lb. tow rating. It gets 18 mpg on average and rides like a full-size luxury car. Even when it’s loaded up it can pull my trailer and ATV effortlessly. I couldn’t be happier with it.”

“I’m a little disappointed with my 2003 **Saturn** Vue all-wheel-drive SUV equipped with an automatic transmission. It has only about 17,000 miles on it but already the front rotors have had to be turned. The ignition switch binds up and has been repaired three times. The transmission occasionally misses when shifting between second and third gear. The dealer tried to solve the problem but couldn’t. I was planning on buying this car after the lease is up. Now that decision will depend on whether the car has any more problems.”

Russ Markley, Wheeler, Mich.: “In 1965 I bought a new **Deere** 4020 tractor and it’s my best buy. I replaced the engine 20 years ago, but the rear end, transmission, and hydraulic pump have never been touched. Otherwise it has required only routine maintenance and replacement of belts, alternators, tires and batteries. Nowadays I use it mainly for loader work.”

Lonny Collins, Osakis, Minn.: “My 2003 **Polaris** 700 Sportsman ATV is my worst buy. The base gasket went out, allowing anti-