

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

have little to no highway miles and are usually loaded with two or three hay bales. We have also had three Thunderbirds, two Crown Victorias, and an F-150."

Kurt F. Cordes, Burbank, Wash.: Kurt uses his 1947 **Farmall N** and 1948 **Farmall H** tractors in his haying operation and says they're both "best buys." "These experienced workhorses always get the job done. I think more people should think about using fine, older tractors like this for their operations. They'll save you money in the long run."

Brian Miller, Laurens, N.Y.: Brian's impressed with his 2004 **Kubota BX 23** tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe. "I like how easy the loader and backhoe are to put on and off. This tractor far surpasses my old Kubota B-8200 model, which was equipped with a fixed 5-ft. wide, hydraulic-operated front blade. It easily handles the same implements I used with that tractor, which include a 48-in. Bush Hog, a York rake, etc."

Ed and Liz Ketter, Osborne, Kansas: "My **Honda Foreman 450** ATV is my best buy. It always starts and runs perfectly. I use it to spray crops, herd cattle, run errands, and so forth. I have a sprayer with a 25-gal. tank mounted on the ATV's rear rack. It's very stable even with a full gas tank, and it never burns or leaks oil. Also, I like the 2-WD switch.

"The non-asbestos disc brakes on my **International Harvester 656** tractor always lock up in cold weather, no matter how they're adjusted. The original brake discs lasted a long time - 6,000 hours - and they always worked."

Gina Langley, Ruidoso Downs, N. Mex.: Gina likes the Magnum game carrier he bought from **Cabela's**. "It works better than a wheelbarrow and cost just \$100. I use it to haul wood, feed bags, hay bales, and other loads around my rocky, hilly property. It can haul a 300-lb. load over rough terrain with ease. Comes with straps for lashing the load down."

She nominates her **Polaris 6-wheeler** ATV as her "worst buy." "It's difficult to maneuver, and the two extra wheels have to be patched regularly. Another problem is that it doesn't have enough power in reverse gear, and it has a tendency to roll over more frequently than 4-wheelers do. Also, the brakes can't hold it back from hurtling down hills or rolling away whenever I think it's parked."

Jack Kovars, Mountainburg, Ark.: "My 2001 **Chevrolet Duramax** pickup equipped with an Allison 1000 and 5-speed automatic transmission is my best buy. This is the first

"It has a tendency to roll over more frequently than 4-wheelers do."

Chevrolet product I've ever owned. I use it to pull a 16,000-lb. fifth wheel trailer. This pickup now has about 67,000 trouble-free miles on it. It has an excellent ride, too."

Bill Staton, Sheridan, Mo.: Bill's unhappy with his 2003 **Deere 702** cart-type, 10-wheel rake. "The problem is that it can't handle heavy hay. Instead, hay just balls up at the end of the rake. I fought with it for two seasons before I got rid of it and bought a New Holland bar rake. I find that hay bales up so much better with a bar rake than it does with a wheel rake. The company wouldn't help at all."

Marvin Kroontje, Magnolia, Minn.: "My 2002 **MTD 8** hp, 26-in. snowblower keeps going in snow as deep as the top of the

blower's intake without plugging up. I've used it a lot, with no breakdowns.

"My worst buy was my 2003 **Harbor Freight** Ω -in. hammer drill. One time I was using it to drill through some 3/8-in. iron when it started blowing pieces of white plastic out the vents. Then it flashed a big spark and shorted out, giving me a shock through the plastic handle. I had only used the drill a few times."

Robert Clausen, Fairfield, Wash.: Robert's impressed with his **Great Plains 3000-3S** grain drill. "For many years I've been using three International Harvester 510 drills to seed my legumes. To plant seed at the proper depth, I always had to chisel the ground during the fall and then cultivate at least twice the following spring before seeding. With this drill, I can sow legumes right into standing stubble. The drill's ofset double disc openers, combined with an adjustable, positive down pressure system, let me place seed wherever I want it without any prior cultivation.

"I've started using one-pass fertilizer applicators that I rent from local dealers to fertilize into standing stubble. Then I seed with the drill. So far this has worked pretty well,

"With this drill, I can sow legumes right into standing stubble."

but I need more experience with this system before I can be sure.

"Before I bought this drill, I spent about two hours between fields on the road. I had to unhook the three drills, fold the hitch wings, and hook the drills together for transport. Once I got to the field, I had to hook the drills back up again. Now, moving is easy because all the lifting and folding is done hydraulically. I just get out of the tractor and flip four small levers in order to lock the drill into road transport position. I can be ready to move in less than five minutes.

"On the downside, by purchasing this drill I went from a 36-ft. seeding width to a 30-ft. width. The company only offers this type of drill in 30 and 40-ft. widths, and the wider drill would be too much for my tractor to pull."

John T. Conway, Wilmore, Ky.: "My **Sears Craftsman** 5 hp, wall-mount vacuum is handy to store and has plenty of power to pick up dirt. All the Sears products I've used over the years have worked great, and the company stands behind its warranty, too."

Leo N. Munteanu, Wood Mountain, Sask.: A 1972 **Deere 4320** tractor rates as Leo's "best buy." "I bought this tractor used in 1976 with 1,200 hours on it and used it for 28 years to pull a 21-ft. cultivator and 21 ft. of press drills hooked together. I also use it during the winter to feed my cows. Over the years I put two clutches in it. Now it has more than 14,000 hours on it but still runs perfect."

Joe Borgen, Stanley, N. Dak.: "My 1975 **Deere 6030 2-WD** tractor has more than 8,000 hours on it with few problems and is my best buy. It has a lot of power, a good hydraulic system, and pulls great. It's also reliable.

"My 1997 **Chevrolet K1500 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 350 cu. in. Vortec engine and automatic transmission was bought used with about 30,000 miles on it. The truck now has about 195,000 miles. I had to put two transmissions in it during the first 150,000 miles. However the rest of the pickup, including the engine, works good."

DeWayne Bauman, Montrose, Minn.:

"My best buy is my 1996 **Central Boiler** Classic outdoor wood burning furnace. After looking at all the different brands and models I decided to buy this one because it has a heavy build, a rear exit chimney, a simple design, no extra doors, flues or baffles, and spray-on foam insulation. It has been trouble-free. This furnace burns way less wood than many other brands. I liked it so much that I became a dealer."

Gary Malone, Palisade, Neb.: "Since your report in the last issue of **FARM SHOW** about the problems I've had with my 2002 **Ford New Holland** bi-directional TV140 tractor (purchased in November, 2003 and already more than 35 on-farm service calls), I finally had to threaten my dealer with a lawsuit. They came out the next day and finally found problems with the fuel pump, the timing, and the fuel injectors. When they first tested the tractor, the dyno was at 60 hp. But after the repairs it was like a new tractor, with the full 105 hp. When we got it home, it was like driving a new tractor. After a year and a half of hassle, it looks like we finally have the tractor we thought we bought originally.

"But here's the bad news. The bill for the work was \$2,525. The dealer said the New Holland block man was going to pay half, 'even though he didn't have to' since the tractor is now out of warranty. I had to pay my half to get the tractor back, even though I have been calling and working with them on this - and many other problems totalling thousands of dollars - ever since I bought the tractor. The only reason it's out of warranty now is because they dithered around for so long. If they don't have any liability, why are they paying half? I think it's because they know they can get away

with not covering the entire amount.

"My recommendation to anyone doing business with Ford New Holland is to pay \$150 to have a lawyer look over any warranty contract you sign with the company. And if you end up with a tractor or other machine with problems, don't waste time. Get a lawyer, go down to the dealer, and get a written contract from them that the problems will be resolved. If they won't give you that, file a lawsuit sooner rather than later."

Mark Newhall, Lakeville, Minn.: "I'm pleased with the quality and ease of use of **Safety Seal** kits for repairing flat tires



(www.safetyseal.com or ph 800 888-9021). You use a small metal tool to ream out the puncture hole where a tire is leaking, and then use another tool to push in a small rubber plug. There's no drying or curing time and you don't use any messy rubber cement. It takes just a minute or so to fix a hole in any size tire. I bought a repair kit last summer that includes both tools and about 60 patches. It's not cheap at \$42 (smaller kits are available) but it has a guaranteed shelf life of 6 years, so I just tucked it away in my truck along with a small 12-volt air compressor. When I got a nail in a trailer tire last fall, I had the hole plugged and the tire blown back up in less than 10 min."

Have You Read Every Issue Of FARM SHOW?

We're proud to announce one of the most valuable reference tools ever created for farmers and ranchers: **FARM SHOW Magazine on CD-Rom!**

The latest new version of **FARM SHOW** on CD-Rom includes a state-of-the-art "searchable" electronic index that makes it easy to find any in-vention or idea published over the past 28 years (through Vol. 28, No. 2).

Every story ever published in **FARM SHOW** is cross-referenced in one or more of 200 categories. You can search by key word, story title, manufacturer or farmer name, or by category.

Or you can simply browse through all 28 years of **FARM SHOW** at your leisure.

"**FARM SHOW** On CD-Rom" sells for \$39.95 (\$54.95 Canadian) plus S&H. Comes with a 100 percent money-back guarantee. If you're not happy with the CD-Rom for any reason, we'll refund all of your money, no questions asked.

This CD-Rom works on any personal computer (PC or Mac).



CD-Rom Order Form

Yes! Please rush me a copy of **FARM SHOW** Magazine on CD-Rom, which includes every issue of **FARM SHOW** ever published plus a "searchable" electronic index. Payment of \$39.95 plus \$2.95 S&H (\$54.95 Canadian plus \$2.95 S&H. Add 7% GST).

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to: **FARM SHOW**. Mail to: **FARM SHOW** Index, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044 ph 1-800-834-9665. Visa, MC and Disc accepted.