

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

months. We were told it would cost about \$250 to replace the computer board. We complained that an oven should last longer than ours did and not cost \$250 or more to fix. They gave us a \$70 coupon off our next General Electric purchase but I have no plans to buy another General Electric product. We put the oven out for the trash man to pick up and then bought an oven without a computer in it."

E.L. Warner, Chapin, S.C.: "My Swisher 42-in. ZTR mower is my worst buy. The cutting height indicator went bad the first time I used it. Then the dust covers on the caster wheel shafts, along with the shaft retainer washers, disappeared. The machine now has only 22 hours on it but already there's a problem with the left hydraulic motor - the pulley came loose on the shaft. I returned it to Northern Tool for repairs under warranty. However, the company dragged its feet on repairing this unit."

Cornie Van Lant, Chandler, Minn.: "I think it's the best pickup ever made," says Cornie, pleased with his 2004 Dodge 2500 equipped with a high output diesel engine. "The engine has a lot of power and starts even in the coldest weather. It gets about 20 mpg. It's a super truck."

Kevin Short, Honor, Mich.: "My DeWalt 1/2-in. VSR hammer drill is my best buy. I do stone artwork with old farm equipment incorporated into it. I've used this drill for four years to drill hundreds of holes in all kinds of stone, and it has never let me down. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

Don Pearce, Broadus, Mont.: Don has 700 trouble-free hours on his Case-IH MXM 130 tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "This tractor handles nice and is easy on fuel. I really like its semi power shift transmission. The loader does a good job moving round bales."

Pascal D' Huyvetter, Fairchild, Wis.: "My Case-IH 7110 Magnum tractor is my best buy. We work it hard. After 12,000 hours, we've only had a few minor problems."

James Hutchinson, Whiteville, Tenn.: "My 2004 Kodiak rotary cutter is my worst buy. Every time I try to put the pto in gear the blades lock up so tight that I have to take a large hammer and beat them loose. My dealer had the company send new blades and other parts so I could make the repair, which I did, but the same thing happened again. The company didn't pay the dealer to repair the cutter or offer me compensation for my many trips to the dealer. I was going to purchase a heavier duty cutter, but the company said steel prices had gone up so much they couldn't give me a break on another cutter."

Warren D. Youngblom, Litchfield, Minn.: "My 2004 Ford TCS 55 tractor equipped with a front-end loader is my best buy. It has adequate power and handles unbelievably well for a loader tractor. Also, the cab has great visibility."

William B. Erickson, Roseau, Minn.: "This tractor is absolutely a joy to drive and operate," says William, pleased with his 2004 Ford New Holland TL-100 front wheel assist tractor equipped with a 52L quick-tach front-end loader. "It's amazing what this tractor can pull. Also, it's really fuel efficient."

He's unhappy with DeWalt cordless tools. "The rechargeable batteries don't stand up to normal use, and it seems like they're always out of warranty when something goes wrong."

Tim Broer, Iowa Falls, Iowa: "Chain saws tend to be a high maintenance item and hard to start. But my Shindaiwa 488 always starts and cuts well. It has a lot of power and is well made."

"Southmeadow Fruit Gardens was mentioned as a best buy in a recent FARM SHOW

issue. But my experience has been that they're difficult to work with. I bought one of their 112-page antique apple tree catalogs and never received it. I made phone calls and sent letters and emails but got no response. Now I'm out the money I sent. Buyer beware."

Rupert T. Allgood, Calvert City, Ky.: "My 1970's Satoh Beaver 4-WD tractor is a little marvel. It's powered by a 2-cylinder, 15 hp diesel engine and has a 3-speed pto and eight forward speeds. The engine has been trouble-free. I thought this tractor was expensive when I bought it, but over time it has turned out to be quite economical."

Mitch Auer, Broadview, Mont.: "My father and I own three Versatile tractors and they're all best buys. They include a 1979 model 800, 1976 model 835, and 1982 model 935. These tractors are dependable and rarely break down, and they have great Cummins engines. They're fairly inexpensive and they never stop running."

"These tractors are fairly inexpensive, and they never stop running."

Dale Garner, Vincennes, Ind.: "My 2003 Featherlite 4-horse gooseneck trailer is well built. The company built it to my specs, and they were happy to add any convenience that I wanted. I had living quarters added onto it by Showtime Conversions of Middlebury, Ind. This trailer is built entirely of lightweight aluminum so my Chevy 3/4-ton crew cab pickup has no trouble pulling it."

"My New Holland 254 combination rake/ tedder is my worst buy. The ground wheels aren't built sturdy enough for the weight of the implement. It does a poor job of tedding hay, with no uniformity. It takes two people to hook the implement up to my tractor, and I have to almost lay on the ground to operate the levers so I can switch from tedding to raking. I'll never buy another one."

Gary Baker, Mechanicsville, Iowa: "My Case-IH 2388 combine equipped with an AFX rotor is an excellent machine. It has a comfortable cab, a lot of power, and enough capacity to handle a 30-ft. platform or an 8-row corn head and unload on-the-go at speeds of more than 4 mph. The new AFX rotor is definitely an improvement over an already excellent threshing system."

"I don't really have any worst buys. I've learned that the best time to buy a new piece of equipment is just before the company introduces its new model. One time I bought a corn planter and a forage chopper that were new models. Both machines went back to the dealer for rebuilds - the planter twice and the chopper once."

Lawrence S. Jackson, Hamilton, Mo.: "I like my 1993 Dodge Dakota extended cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5.2-liter fuel-injected engine. I bought it used with about 166,000 miles on it. Recently, I put more than 12,000 miles on it in one month. It couldn't run any better if it was new."

Stanley Dirksen, Davis Junction, Ill.: "A 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2-WD, 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 4.8-liter engine is my best buy. It handles well and rides great even with the heavy suspension system. It gets about 17 mpg around home and 20 mpg on the road, which I think is pretty good. The cab is as tight and quiet as any pickup that I've ever owned. I'm well satisfied with it."

Gordon E. Harris, Mattison, Wis.: Gordon likes his Murray 15 1/2 hp riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck but has had prob-

lems finding parts for it. "I use it to mow my lawn, to cut weeds, and even to cut down a big patch of Jerusalem artichokes. About one year ago the rear end started to go bad. I bought it from Fleet Farm and now I can't find parts for it."

"My best buy is a 1988 Dodge van, which I bought used four years ago. It has a 318 cu. in. engine and a lock-up torque converter which acts as an overdrive. It gets about 20 mpg or so. My wife and son both like it almost as much as I do."

Charles Rodgers, Harveyville, Kansas: "It has more than 95,000 miles on it but doesn't use any oil and still has the original spark plugs," says Charles, impressed with his 1992 GM Sierra 1500 pickup. "I use it to tow an 18-ft. trailer loaded with a Deere B tractor. This pickup still doesn't have any rust and the paint on it looks like new. The only major repair it needed was replacement of a rear transmission seal."

On the negative side, he lists his 1997 Pontiac Grand Am. "It has less than 50,000 miles on it, but already I've had to turn the brake drums and replace the front rotor and alternator. The dealer had to fix the headlights and service the engine sensors twice."

Burdean Chapin, Britton, S. Dak.: "My best buy is FARM SHOW. It's an interesting magazine with a lot of good ideas, and it's fun to read."

Richard Fryzek, Estes Park, Colo.: "My 2001 Sears Craftsman 18-volt cordless drill driver has power and is a tough tool. I've used it to build several decks. It's durable, and the battery charge lasts a long time."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 2004 FlowTone leaf eater. "It wouldn't do anything the manufacturer said it would. The cutter string lasted about seven minutes. It was supposed to mulch pine needles but it wouldn't

touch them. I'm disappointed with it."

William R. Warner, New York Mills, Minn.: "I bought my 1982 Ford 7710 2-WD tractor eight years ago with 2,900 hours on it. Now it has 4,500 hours and has never needed any major repairs. It runs efficiently and has a quiet and comfortable cab. The air and heater always work, and it's easy to drive. My daughter started driving it when she was 13 years old."

"My 1995 Murray lawn mower equipped with a 3 1/2 hp Briggs and Stratton engine is my worst buy. It never started without having to be primed and cranked a dozen times. We finally bought another mower equipped with a 5 hp Honda motor, and it usually starts on the first pull."

Doug Scott, Poplar Bluff, Mo.: "My Hesston 530 round baler is easy to operate, has a simple design, and makes good bales."

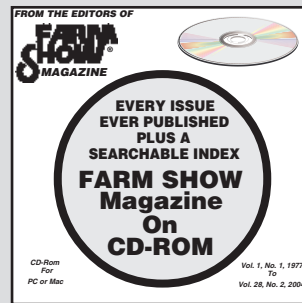
Len White, Montgomery, Texas: "I like the dog house heater I bought from Akoma Dog Products (16848 239th Ave., Big Lake, Minn. 55309). "It's simple to install and maintain and has a simple design."

Kenneth M. Hart, Mineral, Va.: Kenneth likes his DR trimmer mower equipped with a 6 hp electric start motor. "We needed something to maintain a family cemetery lot and ordered this mower on a 6-month trial basis. One requirement was it had to cut tall and tough material close to gravestones and fences. It worked even better than we hoped."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists Slip-Ons designed to cover round bales. "A good idea and a good company to do business with. However, I make 4-ft. dia. by 5-ft. long bales and the covers made for bales of this size are too short to prevent water from accumulating at the bottom of the bale. It results in more spoilage than I'd probably get with uncovered bales stored on pallets."

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.