

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Marie Blocher, Mesquite, Texas:** Marie recently installed an **EZ Foot Pedal Starter** on her lawn mower and says it's her “best buy” (Step Start Corp., Monroeville, Ala. ph 334 356-4860; www.stepstart.com). The foot pedal starter was previously featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 28, No. 2. The unit fits most walk-behind mowers without a rear



bagger and attaches to the mower handle with four adjustable clamps. Once attached to the mower, the cord is never pulled by hand. To start the mower you simply step on a pedal.

“Not many products these days come with everything you need for installation, but this one does, right down to the tie-wrap that holds

**Redwater, Alberta:** “We like our **Wicks** digital thermometer, which we use to check the cows in our herd (Professional Equipment, Inc., Hauppauge, N.Y. ph 800 334-9291; www.professionalequipment.com). It delivers a 10-second readout, which is fast enough that we can check more animals and also catch problems earlier than we could before. It sells for about \$15 (Canadian).

“We're pleased with our **Ford New Holland 8360** front wheel assist tractor equipped with a **Quicke 980** front-end loader. In my opinion, Quicke is the only loader that's designed better than a Deere loader.”

**R.L. Sellars, Bolton, Miss.:** R.L. nominates his 1997 **Cub Cadet** hydrostat riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck as his “best buy.” “I use it to mow five acres of lawn. It requires only minimal maintenance and after seven years of hard use is still going strong. I changed the bearings in the deck when the machine was four years old, and I also replaced the battery.

“In 1995 I bought a used 1967 **Cub Cadet** for \$900. I used it for three years and liked it so much that I bought the above new model in 1997. I sold the 1967 model to my uncle for \$600, and he's still using it.”

**Hal D. Stephens, Solomon, Kansas:** Hal likes his 1969 **International Farmall 856** diesel tractor, which he bought used. “I bought it when I switched from using a small square baler to a big round one and needed more power. This tractor never fails to start. It does a good job of handling all my equipment.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 1998 **Sears** string-type weed trimmer. “From the beginning, this weed trimmer would run for only 20 to 30 minutes before it would quit. I had to wait for it to cool down, and even then it was hard to start. I returned the trimmer to the company service center five different times before I finally gave up on it. It's still setting in my shed. However, I've had good luck with other Sears products.”

**Samuel Draper, Fontana, Calif.:** “We like our 1992 **Buick LeSabre**. We bought it used two years ago at 97,000 miles and it has been trouble-free. On a 1,000-mile trip it got 30 mpg without using a drop of oil. It's a best buy.”

A 1998 **Electra Beckum** electric pressure washer sold by **Harbor Freight** rates as his “worst buy.” “Right after I bought it the trigger on the wand broke. Then the machine quit working completely.”

**Harmon Lindesmith, Waurika, Okla.:** Harmon's impressed with his 2001 **Deere 790** compact tractor equipped with a front-end loader and 72-in. finish mower. “It's an excellent performer in every way and has been trouble-free. This is my first small tractor. I expected it to work good since I've been using big Deere equipment for 40 years with great success.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists a pair of 2002 **Cadillac Seville SLS** cars. “They're the worst cars I've ever owned. The engines knocked so badly I had to replace the pistons. The wipers quit working, the bearings on the steering shaft went bad, and I had to replace the steering rack assembly, heaters in the seats, and window motors. The power seats and power tilt steering wheel also quit working.”

**James Allen, Molalla, Oregon:** “I'm well pleased with my two **New Holland 7740** tractors. One is a 4-WD and the other a 2-WD. No problems.

“My 1999 **Dodge 4-WD** diesel pickup has more than 105,000 miles on it with no problems. It'll pull a gooseneck trailer hauling 12,000 lbs. with ease.”

**James R. Hursh, Cropwell, Ala.:** “I like my 2001 **Cyclops Brutel** low impedance electric fencer (Taylor Fence, Inc., Ashville, Ala. ph 205 594-5971). It does a great job. Cattle

# 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  
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the spark plug wire,” says Marie. “I like it because I don't have to rely on friends or neighbors to start my mower for me. Like most seniors, I want to keep doing as much as I can for myself as long as I can. The exercise I get pushing my mower keeps me from losing any more of my fitness and strength as I age.”

**Jerry M. Cloyd, Hopkinsville, Ky.:** “My worst buy is a replacement engine for my Deere lawn tractor that I bought from **Small Engine Warehouse** in Dunkirk, Ind. The engine wasn't too difficult to install, but I couldn't find the right threaded bolt that's needed to attach the electric clutch to a shaft. I even tried using metric bolts, but nothing worked.”

**Charles Tallman, Natural Bridge, N.Y.:** Charles is disappointed with his 2001 **Champion** double wide, 3-bedroom house. “The quality of materials is poor, with substandard workmanship and a bad warranty.”

**Wayne Braun, Durant, Iowa:** “My worst buy was **Royal** silage corn from **Graziers Supply**. There were a lot of cracked and damaged kernels in the bag, that didn't germinate. As a result, even though I had a planted population of 25,000 seeds per acre my actual stand was only about 18,000 plants per acre. The stalks reached a height of only about 6 ft. and weren't girthy at all. Also, they were goosenecked and had poor root growth. Because of the poor results of this corn variety, I was forced to chop a normal corn variety for silage. I actually got about 25 percent more tonnage off the normal variety even though it wasn't bred for high silage yields. Both varieties were planted the same day, and under identical circumstances. When I called the company they told me I was the only one to complain and that they'd get back to me, but they never did.”

**Jeanne and Steen Frederiksen,**