

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

need to get shocked only once before they'll stay clear of the fence.

"Our 2000 **Toyota** Tundra pickup has more than 95,000 miles on it and works great."

Boneta Zeimetz, Mondovi, Wis.: "It's the best pulling pickup I've ever owned," says Boneta, owner of a 2004 **Dodge** 1500 Hemi Ram equipped with a 345 hp engine. "I use it to pull a trailer."

On the minus side, "My 2000 **Ford** F-150 pickup was recalled for engine problems. Then the transmission went out. Ford had to recall 1.3 million trucks made from 1999 to 2000 because of head and gasket leaks on the engine. Some engines were so bad they had to be destroyed."

Ed Curry, Youngstown, Alberta: Ed's happy with his 1984 **Deere** 4450 MFWD tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "It has more than 10,000 hours on it but has required very few repairs. It uses hardly any oil and always starts the first time, even in below freezing weather. It's up to any task in its horsepower range."

Bruce Moorhead, Susquehanna, Penn.: A 1994 **Dodge** all-wheel-drive Grand Caravan rates as Bruce's "best buy." "It'll climb a hill even if there's 10 in. of snow on the ground."

"I like my **Mantis** rototiller and also my **Mantis** sprayer."

Vernon Steffens, Frohna, Mo.: "My **Allis Chalmers** 160 tractor has been trouble-free. It's powered by a Perkins diesel engine that starts good in cold weather. After 4,800 hours it still doesn't use any oil."

Tom Mack, Westville, Ind.: "My all-time worst buy was my 1997 **Lincoln** Continental. In the three years I owned it, I had to take it back to the dealer for repairs at least 20 times. The worst problems were with the engine mis-firing and leaking oil, but there were also problems with the transmission, rear end, suspension system, computer, and interior trim. I traded the car after the warranty expired because I couldn't afford to keep it any longer."

"My 1992 **Ford** Taurus was another worst buy. The head gasket blew out at about 40,000 miles, the transmission failed at 50,000 miles, and the entire air conditioning system had to be replaced three times. So much for the company's motto 'fix it once, fix it for life.' It cost me about \$1,000 every time I took the car in for repairs."

"The head gasket blew out at about 40,000 miles and the transmission failed at 50,000 miles."

"My 1998 **Cadillac** Deville is my best buy. It hasn't been back to the dealer even once for repairs. I did replace the battery after four years, but that's normal maintenance. I love this car."

John Vogel, Weyburn, Sask.: "I like my **Buhler Versatile** 2335 4-WD tractor (www.buhler.com). It has about 335 horsepower and is priced right, considering the dollars I spent per horsepower."

Ben F. Reeves, Fountain, Colo.: "My worst buy was a **Sears Craftsman** 4 1/2-in. industrial grinder. The first wheel wasn't even worn out before sparks started blowing out of the motor, so I took it back to the dealer. However, they said they couldn't pay to have the motor repaired because I didn't have an extended warranty. That was never mentioned when I bought the machine."

Bill Peacher, Laclede, Mo.: "The 454 engine is the only good thing on this truck,"

says Bill about his "worst buy" 1980 **Chevy** 1-ton truck that he nevertheless is still driving at 250,000 miles and counting. "I've had to put in 18 different clutch pressure plates and overhaul the 4-speed transmission eight times. The rear brakes never did work right, the driver door fell off three times, the speedometer failed five times, the differential failed twice, and the front end failed three times. The engine went 191,000 miles before the crankshaft broke."

"My best buy is my 1997 **Dodge** 3500 4-WD pickup equipped with a V-10 engine and 5-speed transmission. It has more than 106,000 miles on it and pulls a big load. With a backhoe or trencher loaded the total weight is more than 28,000 lbs. I haven't had any problems with the transmission or clutch. Also, it's very fuel efficient."

"I like my 1992 **Dodge** Dakota equipped with a V-6 engine, and my 1999 **Dodge** 1500 pickup equipped with a 318 cu. in. engine. Both models are fuel efficient. I think Chrysler has an exceptional warranty, which is one of the reasons my next vehicle will again be a Dodge."

Dan Gray, Dewberry, Alberta: Dan's impressed with his 1984 **Case** 4894 4-WD tractor. "It's equipped with a diesel engine that runs smooth and is fuel efficient, and with an electric-over-powershift transmission that has worked flawlessly. I like the relative simplicity of older tractors, and I think the company got this model pretty much right."

Dan says he's also well pleased with **Milligan** Canola-based diesel fuel additive (Milligan Bio-Tech, Inc., Foam Lake, Sask., Canada ph 306 272-6284; www.milliganbiotech.com). The company's website says the product can result in up to a 13 percent increase in fuel efficiency, and up to a 50 percent decrease in engine and injection pump wear.

William Richter, Erie, Penn.: "We're well satisfied with our six **Landini** tractors, which we use in our vineyard. We especially like the 6530 F model, which has more than 8,000 hours on it. The engine has never been touched except for the injectors. Our two newest models are a 70 F and an 80 F. They're both 4-WD and work great except for problems we've had with the electronic dash, which our dealer is working on."

"Our **Drill Doctor** is our worst buy. We had a hired person use it to sharpen drill bits. It took a long time to sharpen the bits, and after about twenty 3/8-in. bits had been sharpened we were informed the wheel was worn out and had to be replaced. Now we're looking for someone to sell this lemon to."

Rodger Brimacombe, Sundridge, Ontario: "My 1987 **Ford** 4-WD 4610 tractor has a lot of power and a comfortable cab."

"My 1965 **Ford** 3000 equipped with a diesel engine is a great tractor. It has plenty of power, is fuel efficient, and just keeps thundering away. In my opinion, it's the best tractor ever made - bar none."

Johnny Fuqua, Waynoka, Okla.: "It's the best machine I've ever bought," says Johnny about his 2003 **Deere** 240 skid steer loader. "I use it in my fencing business to dig post holes. It's compact, nimble, and fuel efficient, and also has a lot of power."

Richard Francis, Moundville, W. Va.: Richard is disappointed with his 2003 **Ford** F-350 extended cab, longbed 4-WD pickup. It's equipped with a 6.0-liter diesel engine and a 5-speed automatic transmission. "The problem is that it isn't very fuel efficient. I can drive it at 70 miles per hour with the engine running at 2,000 rpm's, but it still won't average more than 17 mpg. It has about 12,000 miles on it, with about half of those miles on the freeway and without pulling a load. My 1990 heavy duty **Dodge** 250 4-WD

Dust Helmet Solves Allergy Problem

Hog producer Bruce Elliott says his Airstream AS 400 Dust Helmet works so well it has allowed him to keep on working in pork production with his brother, Roger.

They were puzzled when Bruce suddenly developed a severe allergy to hogs.

"I had been working around hogs for more than 20 years, when suddenly I developed a strange patch on one hand," says Bruce. "I went to Dr. Howard Beedy, an allergist in Decatur, Ill. His treatment worked for a while, but then the symptoms came back. I had the problem treated again, but several weeks later the same symptoms returned."

"We decided the problem was due to either a dust or a mold. And while the treatments worked, they were expensive and time consuming."

"Meanwhile, I had seen this air helmet at a farm show where it was said to help when working in dusty conditions around the farm. It has been on the market for some 30 years, so I bought one. When wearing it, I don't have any trouble working with hogs. It's a lot cheaper than allergy treatments, and I don't have to put those drugs in my system."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger and Bruce Elliott, 19478 North 400 St., Montrose, Ill. 62445 (ph 217 924-4350) or



"I paid \$699 for it, but it has been worth every penny," says Bruce Elliott about his powered Airstream Dust Helmet. It comes with a battery pack you wear on your belt and a replaceable filter

Mike Nelson, Airware America, 20219 240th St., Elbow Lake, Minn. 56531 (ph 800 328-1792; website: www.Airwareamerica.com).

pickup has about 150,000 miles on it but still gets more than 20 miles per gallon."

Ronald Headley, Georgetown, Ky.: "I really like my **Kubota** L3100 4-WD tractor equipped with a Kubota front-end loader. I use the loader to dig building foundations. It has a lot of power for a small tractor and outperforms most other small tractors. And, with 4-WD it has a lot of traction."

James C. Doughty III, Farmington, Penn.: "Our 'personal pace' **Toro** 22-in. lawn mower is our best buy. It's easy to start which my wife appreciates. It bags, mulches, and discharges out the side. The bag is easy to empty out without having to be shaken, so I don't have to wear myself out."

Timothy Locke, Bremen, Ala.: A 2002 **Deere** Sabre riding mower equipped with a 17 hp engine and 48-in. deck rates as Timothy's "best buy." "It cuts better than any other mower I've owned. I replaced the battery, but otherwise it has required only routine maintenance."

On the negative side, he lists his 2003 **Troybilt** walk-behind weed trimmer. "If you try to use it on anything other than flat ground it'll cut down into the dirt, which causes it to use up massive amounts of string."

John Blaque, Franklinton, La.: A 2002 **Sears Craftsman** garden tractor equipped with a 23 hp engine and 48-in. deck rates as John's "best buy." "I use it to cut 15 acres and it never causes any problems. I also use it to pull up to 1,000 lbs. of firewood on an old airport luggage cart. I bought it with an extended warranty, which was cheaper and better than what Home Depot and Lowe's were offering with their garden tractors."

Jerry Webster, Klamath, Calif.: Jerry likes his 2003 **Massey Ferguson** 481 4-WD tractor equipped with a 7-ft. bucket. "We use it on our farm and to do jobs around our area. We bought a 7-ft. **Bush Hog** to go with it as well as a big 3-pt. mounted wood chipper. The tractor and those implements are an awesome combination."

Ernest Childers, Esbon, Kansas: Ernest's the satisfied owner of a 1978 **International Harvester** 1086 tractor equipped with a diesel engine and a cab. "I like being able to get out either side of the cab, and I also like the diesel engine's power and fuel economy. Very few problems."

Larry Vink, Topeka, Kansas: Larry isn't

satisfied with his 2003 **Deere** 2210 lawn tractor equipped with a 5-ft. deck. "The problem is the deck won't stay level after I set the 3-pt. hitch. As a result, every time I back up with an implement the turnbuckles on the 3-pt. bind. I removed the turnbuckles and put chains on the 3-pt., which solved the problem."

Richard "Red" Guthrie, Early, Texas: "My 2003 **Hummer** is an excellent truck, but dealer service has been worse than poor. I wrote a certified letter to the general manager but never got a response. Three trips of 300 miles each to the dealer did no good so I made my own repair and sent the dealer the bill with a threat that I'd publish the story if they didn't pay for my expenses. They did. The stainless steel exhaust system leaks at the welds. The wiring for the reverse setting on the video camera burned out due to improper installation. Other things got warranted only after threats by my attorney."

"I use my **Deere** Gator 4 by 6 every day on our farm and kennel. It's a great machine, but Deere won't recognize the engine warranty. It's a very extensive warranty that's twice as long as the Deere warranty. However, the engine has been tuned up three times and I've always had to pay for parts and labor, even after I pointed out the problems were clearly covered by the warranty."

Bob D. Parsons, Salina, Kansas: "At 2,200 hours I had to put a new tie rod on on my 1990 **Case-IH** 7130 tractor. Otherwise I haven't had many problems with it."

Francis Remsik, Marysville, Wash.: "I like my 2001 **Chevrolet** heavy duty pickup equipped with an 8.1-liter engine and Allison transmission."

"I also like my 2003 **Amana** upright freezer. Both the pickup and the freezer are running flawlessly, so far."

On the "worst buy" side, "I had problems with the limited slip differential on my 1993 **Chevrolet** pickup."

Betty Quinn, Lemoore, Calif.: "My **DR** top-of-the-line trimmer is my worst buy. The problem is that weeds wound up around the mechanism and stopped the machine. The company has since come out with a new model with an improved design, but they want me to pay an additional \$70 for it. I think they should give it to me free."

(Continued on next page)