

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Robert Murphy, St. Thomas, Ontario: "Our **Envirotec** corn burning stove has reduced our heating bills by half and is our best buy (Caneco Mfg. Inc., Box 9042, Sub. 40, London, Ontario, Canada N6E 1V0 ph 519 686-7298; email: cornstoves@hotmail.com; website: www.cornstove.ca). Not only are we saving money but we're living more comfortably, too. It has one of the safest heating units I've ever seen."

Kent Cartwright, Genoa, Nevada: Kent likes **Blaster** penetrating oil. "Over the years I've tried most of the penetrating oil products on the market, as I'm always bringing home some rusted machine that needs work. One time I used Blaster on a front disc brake caliper bleed fitting that was nothing more than a lump of corrosion, and it dissolved all the rust."

Jack Merritt, White Plains, Ga.: Jack's disappointed with his 2000 **Kubota** M110 tractor. "I bought the tractor equipped with air conditioning to use in my hay fields in our hot, humid summers, but so far I'm still sweating it out. The air conditioner has never worked from day one. The problem is that the radiator fan sucks up trash and I can't keep it cleaned out. As a result the air conditioner blows hot air. It gets so hot inside the cab I can't even stay in the tractor. I've contacted the company service rep several times with

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no results. I have more than \$50,000 invested in this tractor but I can't even use it. I can't trade the tractor in because I would lose money, and I can't sell it because no one wants this tractor because of its reputation.

"I'm very disappointed in this tractor and with the company in general. I'll never buy another Kubota product nor will I recommend one to my friends. The Kubota ad slogan says they 'pull through every time.' Well, the only thing my Kubota is pulling me through is hot air."

James Arndorfer, Humeston, Iowa: "My 2000 **Ford** F-150 pickup performs well and has done everything I expected it to do. It's also fuel efficient."

On the negative side, "I bought a **Morton** garage-type building equipped with two 9 by 8-ft. overhead doors. The door openers won't work unless I'm standing just outside, or sometimes inside, the building to help raise the doors. I bought this building from Morton as a package that included doors, door openers and a cement floor. I've called the company and have also stopped in several times. However, the secretary always says the salesman is out of the office."

Ray Alexander, Fredericton Junction, New Brunswick: Ray says he likes his 1992 **Dodge** pickup equipped with a diesel engine, but that it has nonetheless had problems. "The diesel engine is far superior to the 6.3-liter diesel in the Chevrolet pickup that I previously owned. Overall, the Dodge is a better pickup. However, after five years the paint began to fall off and now it's a real mess. This pickup has hardly ever been driven during the winter. My next pickup won't be a Dodge."

Arthur Duckworth, Stanley, N.C.: "My **New Holland** 1002 bale wagon is my worst buy. The dealer I bought it from ran many magazine ads indicating that all their equipment is fully reconditioned and tested in their shop. So I bought the bale wagon sight unseen based on the strength of the company's

reputation and claims, which was my first mistake. The unit shipped to me wasn't equipped as described. For example, it had been modified by adding a hydraulic cylinder to lift the pickup head, which required a valve splitter and two hydraulic remotes to run it instead of one as I had expected. One of the push-off springs was broken, and the push-off channels and guides were bent. One of the push-off guides had the wrong size cable adapted and the unit wouldn't function correctly. Also, it leaked hydraulic fluid like a sieve.

"I emailed the implement dealer several times but never got a response. I also called several times and finally talked to a shop manager who assured me they would cover the cost of repairs. I repaired the unit to make it functional - making only the necessary repairs - and then sent the dealer an itemized bill as instructed. The bill was less than \$300 because I did most of the work myself. However, I never received the money or got any response at all from the dealer to my followup emails and calls. Here are the lessons I learned: never buy equipment sight unseen and deal only with reputable people."

Stuart D. Hardee, Conway, S.C.: Stuart is impressed with his pro model **DR** weed trimmer. "I really love it. I bought my first model in 1995. It was stolen two years later so I bought another one right away. I use it to mow a grave yard at my church and have found it to be a lot less tiring than using a 'weedeater-type' trimmer. All I've done is change the oil and buy a new battery. If anyone has problems with the lines breaking, then they're probably buying cutting line from someone other than DR. If you buy the cutting line from them and install it in the cutterhead as instructed, you won't have any problems - or at least I haven't. This machine is definitely my best buy."

Jim Dinklage, Orchard, Neb.: "I've been in the livestock business for more than 30 years and have never used a feed additive product that has impressed me like **MSE** (multiple stabilized enzymes). It's an all natural enzyme and live microbial product produced by Natur's Way of Horton, Kansas (ph 785 486-3990). In 1997 my 170 head of pre-conditioned calves got sick about 30 days after they were weaned. They had runny noses and were coughing and had temperatures of more than 105 degrees. Instead of using an antibiotic in their feed ration I fed them MSE, and within three days the cattle returned to normal health. I've continued using MSE and haven't had a sick animal since then. Another advantage is that I was able to stop purchasing commercial feed supplements. That's because MSE extracts more non-digestible proteins from my home-grown feedstuffs. As a result, my cattle gain weight more efficiently and at less cost. MSE is 100 percent safe at any amount and can be used with any type of livestock.

"My 1994 **Suzuki** King Quad ATV has almost 13,000 miles on it. It has been to the shop only once, and that was for a tune-up just in the last 1,000 miles."

Jeff Fultz, Elizabethtown, Ind.: "My father, Irvin Fultz, is an automotive products distributor for **CPR** Engine Products (The S & S Group, 1018 Barnett Road, Columbus, Ohio 43227 ph 614 235-2773; email: cprauto@hotmail.com; website: www.cprauto.com). We think all their products are best buys, especially their diesel fuel conditioner (Irvin Fultz, 10503 W. 100 S., Hope, Ind. 47246 ph 812 663-9307). My father supplies several local school districts with diesel fuel conditioner for their bus fleets. These products actually perform as advertised. I use the diesel fuel conditioner in my Deere tractor and also in my Cummins



Miller used this 8-ft. Liebrecht rotary ditcher to clean out road ditches that had filled up with soil from nearby fields. The work was part of a highway improvement project.

Rotary Ditcher Used To Clean Ditches

Last year John Miller, Catlin, Ill., used his 8-ft. Liebrecht rotary ditcher to clean out road ditches that had filled up with soil from nearby fields. He loaded the soil into tandem axle trucks.

The Liebrecht rotary ditcher is designed to make ditches up to 10 ft. wide in a single pass (Vol. 19, No. 1). It shapes both sides of the ditch and throws dirt out up to 120 ft. away. To keep dirt from hurting anyone, Miller simply used a tarp to direct the dirt into trucks.

The work was done as part of a 4-mile highway improvement project on state Route 36 near Tuscola, Ill. Miller was working for Howell Asphalt of Mattoon, Ill.

"The state had been using paddle scrapers, but the Liebrecht ditcher is a lot bigger and faster and also more accurate," says Miller. "We did the work during the crop growing season so we had to haul away the soil that was removed. I can cut and move more soil during the farming off season because I can throw it into the field without having to load it into trucks. We were able to load an average of about 185 trucks per day. Each truck holds 7.6 yards of soil so that day we hauled 1,600 cubic yards.

"The machine is equipped with a laser engine-powered Dodge pickup. It keeps the fuel from gelling and also improves fuel efficiency.

"There's even a kit you can purchase to use the conditioner in your car. You use one bottle in the gas tank, one bottle in the oil, and one that gets sucked in via a vacuum hose. After this, your car is guaranteed to pass any U.S. vehicle emissions test (even in California) for the next 200 miles.

"The conditioner actually breaks the water in gasoline down into such small particles that it will combine with fuel and pass through the fuel injection or carburetor. It

"These products actually perform as advertised."

contains no alcohol. My family had a garage for 20 years and we had little faith in additives (either oil or fuel) until we started using these products. They're made by a small company in Ohio."

On the minus side, he lists his 1995 **Honda** Accord EX equipped with a 2.2-liter V-ten engine and 4-speed automatic transmission. "The engine needed a lower end rebuild at 50,000 miles. The electrical system had a lot of problems from the battery all the way back to the tail lights. It also had rust problems in the rear quarters. I've owned 1978 and 1985 Accords, both of which went almost 300,000 miles and excelled in every way. The 1995



The pto-operated ditcher consists of an 8-ft. dia. steel wheel fitted with 8 bolt-on digger buckets. It also has a laser grade control system.

grade control system, which we used to give the bottom of the ditches a perfect grade."

The pto-operated ditcher consists of an 8-ft. dia. steel wheel fitted with 8 bolt-on digger buckets and a replaceable steel wear band inside the wheel housing. Soil is scooped up, carried 180 degrees to the top of the wheel, then thrown out of a hood at the top. A hydraulic cylinder is used to direct the hood's deflector up or down as needed.

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model performed like a newborn colt on ice."

Michael Cresanto, Pittsburgh, Penn.: "My 1997 **Toro** battery-powered electric lawn mower had one problem after another. The motor quit working after the warranty expired. The batteries also failed, and replacement batteries weren't available because the manufacturer quit making spare parts for the mower. After the charger quit working, I threw the whole thing into the garbage and went back to using a gas engine-powered model."

Elwood (Sonny) Wolfe, Enola, Ark.: "It does a good job. No problems," says Elwood about his **Kuhn** 600 heavy duty disc mower. "We've had a lot of rain and downed hay in Pennsylvania this year, but I haven't had any problems with this mower."

Fred Dilling, Hagerstown, Ind.: "My 1964 **Case** 430 loader tractor is my best buy. I bought it used and am its third owner. This tractor has always been used on a dairy farm, but it wasn't well cared for before I bought it. However, it has always worked well for me and is economical to operate."

George R. Moser, Hardy, Va.: "My 1995 **GM** 4-WD pickup equipped with a V-6 engine is my best buy. I bought the pickup used as a repossessed model and knew nothing about it, but I've put more than 200,000 miles on it with only minor repairs. It's a very reliable pickup."

Bob Nass, Hushford, Wis.: "It's a pleasure to drive. I put about 1,000 hours a year

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