

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Mike Lundeen, Altona, Ill.: “My Phillips rotary harrow makes a great seedbed in no-till corn and bean stubble. It covers a lot of ground in a short period of time.”

John May, Mogadore, Ohio: “My 1955 International Harvester Farmall 400 is my best buy of all time. I used it on four different farms over a period of 20 years, and in all those years the engine was never touched. I still use the tractor on occasion.”

Lee Schafer, Houston, Mo.: “Everything on this tractor works really well and is simple to operate,” says Lee, impressed with his 2002 Deere 20 hp GT 245 garden tractor. “I use it with a 30-in. tiller, 48-in. blade, and 54-in. mower deck. This tractor is built heavy and is easy to service. Also, it’s easy to change implements.”

Ron Loper, Moscow, Idaho: “My 1995 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a

that after you sit on it awhile because of the lousy ergonomics. Also, this tractor is terribly underpowered.”

Ralph P. Parks, Wynnewood, Okla.: “My 1960 Studebaker pickup has more than 333,000 miles on it and has had only minor problems. Like a Timex watch, this pickup just keeps on ticking.”

Terry W. Loy, Batesburg, S.C.: “The company wouldn’t stand behind the warranty,” says Terry, unhappy with the Briggs & Stratton gas engine on his lawn mower. “In June 2001 I bought a Swisher 60-in. trailing mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton gas engine. I pull the mower behind a lawn tractor equipped with a 42-in. deck and use it to cut 4 1/2 acres of grass. From the beginning, this engine used 2 to 4 oz. of 30W Valvoline oil every time I cut the lawn, even though I followed the maintenance schedules and instructions in the owner’s manual.”

“At the beginning of this year the engine started to use more oil and smoke was coming out of the exhaust. Then it started blowing oil up into the air cleaner. After replacing the air cleaner several times and trying 40W oil for a couple of mowing jobs, I made a wet and dry compression check. I found the pressure was a lot higher when the engine was hot than when it was dry. So I contacted Wisconsin Magneto, the warranty representative for Briggs & Stratton. The engine has a two-year warranty and was worn out in less than a year. Yet they said they wouldn’t honor the warranty because of lack of proper maintenance.”

“I was given a phone number to call at Briggs & Stratton so that I could appeal the warranty rejection. Meanwhile, I had to buy a new engine so I could keep up with my yard.”

Kenneth Wilde, Fortuna, Mo.: “It’s easy on fuel, has a lot of power, and rides and handles great,” says Kenneth about his 1994 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup equipped with a V-6 engine. “I bought the pickup used two years ago and have over 124,000 miles on it now. The only trouble I had was with the starter, which I had to replace. Now the engine will start no matter how cold the weather gets. It doesn’t use a bit of oil.”

Ivan Gleeson, Bloomington, Ill.: “My 1994 Dodge Magnum 2500 4-WD 3/4-ton pickup is my best buy. I couldn’t be happier with it.”

Willie Worthy, Euaro, Mont.: “My 2001 Chevrolet Duramax 1-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine is my best buy. Compared to the ‘97 Dodge it replaced, this Chevy has more power and stability, better brakes, and is easier on fuel. It gets 12 mpg at 75 mph when towing a 13,000-lb. load, and 22 mpg at speeds up to 75 mph without a load.”

Kenneth E. Caffrey, Polson, Mont.: Kenneth likes his Kubota 3010 HST tractor. “I’m retired from farming. I appreciate this tractor because it’s easy to handle. The hydrostatic transmission is controlled by foot pedals so I can go forward or backward without having to use my hands. Cold weather is hard on me so I added a cab and heater. I use the tractor with a box scraper, Bush Hog mower, front-end loader, and backhoe. All of these implements work good.”

Gary Snyder, Marionville, Mo.: Gary had trouble with replacement no-till planter opener discs sold by Sloan Express (120 Nth College, Assumption, Ill. 62510 ph 800 934-9777). “These disc assemblies should not be

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy

Send your nominations to:
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Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
the survey form on our website at
www.FARMSHOW.com,
or E-mail your comments to:
Editor@FARMSHOW.com

Power Stroke diesel engine is my best buy. I use it almost every day. No problems.

“My Case 750 crawler tractor equipped with a bucket and backhoe is also a best buy.”

Robert Talbot, Walmart, Ill.: “I’d rather drive this pickup than my car,” says Robert about his Ford F-150 2-WD pickup equipped with a 5.4-liter engine and automatic transmission. “No problems after 50,000 miles. The 5.4-liter engine has more power than I need.”

Lloyd A. Cline, Walnut-Cove, N.C.: “I’m well pleased with this tractor and haven’t had any problems with it,” says Lloyd about his 1998 Kubota 4-WD model equipped with a front-end loader. “I used it to clear about five acres of land. It has done a lot of work that I didn’t think it could do.”

Doug Reich, Versailles, Ill.: “All of our Deere tractors have been best buys, including a 4450, 4430, 8100, 4020, 2640, and 5520. All of them are easy to operate and reliable, strong performers. The people who designed these tractors put a lot of thought into what they were doing.”

“My 1997 Arctic Cat 454 Bearcat ATV is my worst buy. It has had numerous electrical problems and has already gone through seven bal joints. The CV boots split within the first year, and the front end started chattering after only about 18 months. Also, the machine went through a lot of spark plugs, the fan motor burned up, a brake cable locked up, and the gear shifter splines wore out. Resale is terrible”.

“My International Harvester 585 has been a reliable tractor but you tend to forget