

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Marion Mikulas, Charles City, Va.:** “We bought used airplane tires from **Gensco** (ph toll free 1-800 663-5287) to mount on a farm wagon and were so satisfied we plan to order some more for our Deere no-till drill. Cotton stalks are so hard on regular tires that we had to try something different. Airplane tires are much tougher so they hold up better. The first time we ordered tires from Gensco, we got them in less than a week. Best of all, you don’t pay for them until you are satisfied they fit and work. Freight was cheap.”

**Henry Bergfelder, Harrington, Del.:** “One of my worst buys ever is an **X-O Clean** cleaning system that runs off the exhaust of a pickup or tractor. I used it to blow off my combine. It worked but I burned out two exhaust systems on my pickup before I figured out it was doing more damage than it was worth. I also got a couple severe burns handling the coupler and valve. The system is well built, out of stainless steel, but it’s not shielded at all so you can easily forget and get burned.

“I stopped using it and went out and bought the biggest leaf blower I could find. This really gets the job done, is simple, and fun to use.”

the tool back to the company and asked them to repair it. I enclosed a note stating that abuse, not normal use, had caused the failure of this tool. I asked them if it was feasible to repair it, and if so, to please do so and send me a repair bill. After three days I missed the tool so much that I bought a new one. About a month after I sent the tool back, I received a new one in the mail. No questions asked and no bill. The company stood behind its product 100 percent.”

**Lew Nielsen, Osceola, Neb.:** “I’m well-pleased with the design and performance of this tractor,” says Lew about his 1994 **Deere 7700**. “The engine has a lot of power and is responsive and fuel efficient, especially with light loads. The company finally made a hitch that has some lifting capacity and raises higher than the hitches on the older models. The company’s 10 series tractors offer a number of improvements over this model. For example, they moved the headlights higher on the grill and added more air vents in the cab. The only improvement needed now is to make the hood tilt up for easier access to the engine and other components.”

**Charles Poole, Ottawa, Ill.:** “Three or four days before Pearl Harbor I bought a new **Allis Chalmers WC** tractor. It’s always been a best buy. When the dealer hauled the tractor to my place a week or so later he told me that if he had waited a week he could have sold the tractor for more than \$1,000 over what I paid for it. It got me through World War II in good shape.”

**John Kennay, Ashton, Ill.:** “My worst buy ever is my 1994 **Chevrolet Blazer** equipped with a 6.5-liter turbocharged diesel engine. It has run poorly ever since I bought it. Many times after I’ve had it ‘fixed’ the service engine light comes on before I even get home from the dealer. I had to replace the fuel injection pump three times and after the third one was installed the vehicle wouldn’t start on colder days. When I took the vehicle back to the dealer, he said I was using the wrong fuel.

“The fuel system was supposed to be covered by GM’s extended warranty, but the company refused to pay for anything. The district service man refuses to talk to me, and the dealer still has the \$700 that I paid him to have the vehicle diagnosed. I’ve tried several times to talk to someone at the company level, but no one has ever responded.”

**William Fairbairn, Wakefield, Quebec:** William nominates his 1996 **Ford New Holland 5030** front wheel assist tractor as his “worst buy”. “It has only about 400 hours on it, but already I’ve had to make a lot of repairs. I’ve replaced seals in the power steering piston twice; and twice I’ve had to replace the rubber seals around the brake shafts in the rear axle. I also had to replace the alternator and battery, and a radiator hose blew after the first 20 hours of use.

“By the time the tractor had 350 hours, the main wiring harness for all the cab controls had worn through. Apparently the wiring harness was installed wrong and was rubbing on the tractor frame under the floor mat. The wires began to short out and smoke started filling the cab. At this point, the wires began to burn and the tractor almost caught on fire. The company wouldn’t fix it so I had to repair it at my own cost. This involved a 10-hour process of removing the cab floor and the rubber floor mat around the steering console. It was a difficult job because the rubber floor mats are thick and get very stiff in cold weather. In some places the material had to be cut just so that I could get it around the

**Kenny Schnack, Gretna, Neb.:** “My 2000 **Steiger Torex 10-ft.** scraper is my best buy. I bought it new a year ago from Grand River Sales, Brunswick, Mo., and used it to move dirt on CRP ground. It’s a gooseneck model that hitches directly to the tractor drawbar, so it has a lot of clearance and won’t plug up when the load is ejected. I like it a lot better than other scraper models equipped with front-mounted dolly wheels, which often do plug up. I use a Deere 8640 4-WD tractor to pull it, and it works well even in frozen ground. I anticipate keeping this scraper for at least 10 to 15 years.”

**Watt Mullins, Shelbyville, Tenn.:** Watt nominates his 2001 **Kubota 6800** tractor as his “best buy”. “It’s big enough to do the job and has adequate power, and it couldn’t be more comfortable. It has a flat floorboard which I really like, and it rides smooth. It’s also reasonably fuel efficient. It’s made entirely from steel instead of fiberglass so it’s built really strong. My only wish is that I could shift it without clutching. I bought two weights for the tractor’s front end.”

**Mike Riley, Grandview, Texas:** “My **Ariens 6 hp** string mower is my best buy. It works great for trimming weeds and grass next to fences, wood piles, and around equipment. It’s easy to use and cost about \$100 less than a comparable model made by DR. I run the engine just fast enough to do the job.”

**Ralph Funk, Jr., Mill Hall, Pa.:** “My **Leatherman Super Tool** is a best buy. After about 5 years, the saw blade and one of the safety locks on the blades were broken. I sent

## 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  
www.FARMSHOW.com,  
or E-mail your comments to:  
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**