

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

By: Mark Newhall
Editor

Bill Gergen
Senior Editor

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
www.FARMSHOW.com,
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Fritz Groszkruger, Dumont, Iowa: Fritz is the satisfied owner of a **Deere 5105M** tractor equipped with a 563 front-end loader. “After freezing for years in tractors without cabs we felt we had earned this great loader tractor. It has a slight delay going into reverse, which can be frustrating, but it’s probably safer to use that way. Also, the joystick’s plastic handle broke after five years of use.”

“My **LL Bean** waxed cotton, down-filled chore coat is heavy and smells like an old Army surplus store. It provides great protection from the cold and wind (www.llbean.com; ph 888 615-9974). This company stands behind its products.”

“I wish **Gates Rubber Co.** still made Green Wellies rubber boots. They came as medium or wide and mine lasted for two years. Then the company sold out, and I’ve found that boots made by the new company fall apart in just a few weeks. If anyone knows of a good boot to fill this niche, I’d like to hear about it. All the plastic boots and wet suit-like boots I’ve seen are either too hard or cause your feet to get hot.”

Ronnie Schnitzler, Sparta, Wis.: “The carburetor on my **Mantis** rototiller clogs up on today’s gas. The dealer says a new

carburetor is needed, at a cost of about \$100.”

calves, along with a Belgian horse, and hate to see a lot of hay waste,” says Don. “At first I thought this product was priced a bit high, but not any more. My bales last 20 to 25 percent longer so the feeder has paid for itself in just a couple of months. I wish there was a faster and easier way to put the net on the bales, but I can live with that little struggle in return for the savings in hay waste.”

Dave Kuipers, Arlington, S. Dak.: “My 1990 **Chevrolet** 1500 diesel pickup has served me well while working construction jobs over the years. It has been to about two thirds of the states and now serves as my daily commuter. It has about 343,000 miles on it but for the most part has required only routine maintenance. It’s parked for the winter now, but I’ll bring it back out this spring.”

Fred J. Whipple, Chittenango, N.Y.: “My 1971 **International Harvester** 1026 Hydro tractor has never been in the shop for repairs and is still going strong.”

“I’m impressed with my **Pronovost** 104-in. 3-pt. mounted, double auger heavy duty snowblower. It really chews through big snowdrifts (www.pronovost.qc.ca; ph 418 365-7551).”

“My 2011 **Wood Gun** E180S wood boiler requires too much maintenance. Ashes don’t come out of the cyclone as they should, and the fan motor quit working. The boiler loads up with creosote and smokes terribly whenever wood is loaded in. Also, the gaskets on it don’t last.”

Vlietstra Dairy Farm, Kalamazoo, Mich.: “Over the years we’ve been extremely happy with the performance of Deere equipment. However, we recently purchased a **Deere** 326 skid loader equipped with a hydrostatic transmission that’s noisy and stiff. Also, the transmission won’t go into low range unless the engine is turned off. Now no one wants to drive it so the machine sits unused in our barn.”

“Our 2015 **Case** 210 skid loader runs smooth and quiet and is a pleasure to operate. Perhaps Deere could learn from this company just how to build a skid loader.”

Mac Campbell, Wilkesport, Ontario: “It’s a pleasure to operate and is fuel efficient,” says Mac about his 2015 **GM** Sierra 1500 Kodiak Z71 crew cab pickup.

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 2014 **Dodge** Ram 1500 quad cab 4-WD pickup equipped with an EcoDiesel engine. “I bought this pickup because it was advertised to get 30 mpg. However, a year after I bought it and with about 20,000 miles the EcoDiesel engine started hammering as if a main bearing had failed.”

“The dealer told me to drive the pickup in for inspection, but I never made it because the engine blew about halfway there. He said metal shards in the oil filter had caused the oil pressure to drop, and he ordered a new engine on October 18. However, I didn’t get the pickup back until December 4 and by that time I already had my Sierra.”

Bryan Van Kirk, New Galilee, Penn.: “My best buy is my smart phone. Anytime I buy a new vehicle I take a photo of the VIN number or the vehicle’s model and serial number and then title it. It saves a lot of time when ordering parts.”

“For example, one time I needed a new part for our refrigerator. To pull the refrigerator out far enough to read the model and serial numbers, I would have had to first disconnect the ice maker water supply line and risk breaking a fitting or stripping threads. But with my smart phone I was able to just reach in and take a photo of the numbers. Placing your phone on one of those ‘selfy sticks’ might come in handy for this kind of task.”

Tom Korn, Danvers, Ill.: A 2009 **Cooper** Mini Clubman equipped with a 1.6-liter, 4-cyl. engine and 6-speed manual transmission rates as Tom’s “best buy” (www.miniusa.com; ph

carburetor is needed, at a cost of about \$100.”

Mark Rohrbacher, Turner, Oregon: “I like my **Timberline** chainsaw sharpener (www.timberlinesharpener.com; ph 208 405-2020). Every tooth gets sharpened exactly the same, which is difficult to do with a file. And unlike when you sharpen with a grinder, there’s no need to remove the chain.”

Gary L. Baker, Mechanicsville, Iowa: “I help a farmer during harvest and operate a **Case IH** 370 Magnum tractor equipped with a CVT transmission. It’s the best tractor I’ve ever driven. It has plenty of power and I really like the transmission. It also has a great cab and rides like a luxury car.”

Kirby Herman, Elizabethton, Tenn.: “My best buy is a 2009 **Pacer** 2-in. self-priming water pump equipped with a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine (www.pacerpumps.com; ph 800 233-3861). This pump has had a lot of hard use but still starts on the first pull. It has paid for itself many times over.”

On the minus side, “My **Eden Pure** radiant heater doesn’t heat as large an area as advertised, and the bulbs on it don’t last long and are expensive to replace. The price of this heater has been reduced since I bought mine, but it’s still no bargain. I threw mine away after one year.”

Mel Greenwade, Auburn, Neb.: “I think **Stihl’s** MS 201T chainsaw is junk compared to the company’s earlier model MS 200T. Too bad Husqvarna doesn’t make a good trimming saw. Their Pro chainsaws are tops.”

Don Eenigenburg, Grant, Mich.: Don’s the satisfied owner of a 2015 **Cinch** Net slow feeder hay net from The Hay Chicks (www.haychix.com; ph 715 483-1770). It can be used with square bales, round bales, or flakes and is designed to control the amount of hay horses are able to consume at any one time.

“I feed a small herd of beefalo cows and