

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Leo Bottoms, Gould, Ark.: “My Carry All boat has been a real blessing. Even though I lost the use of my legs after I retired from farming, I still go fishing. The Carry All has a hinged front end like a Navy landing craft with space to maneuver my wheelchair. The end drops down to the boat launch. I drive my wheelchair right on and over to the controls.



“The boat is 6 ft. wide by 20 ft. long with a reinforced floor that can carry up to a ton. It has a 90 hp motor and can carry an ATV. The company owners originally built one for their dad, who was in a wheelchair.

“Although their father died before he could use it, my son saw it at a boat show and told

ankles, knees and back. Made well, easy to bolt on, and really holds up. Sells for just \$6.99 (www.digrigshovel.com; ph 877 590-1599).”

Benjamin Hoffman, Bradford, Maine: “I’ve used a **Kasco** 4-ft. Value Drill twice on my property. It’s a very well-built no-till drill that performs beautifully. I’d love to own one but can’t justify the \$6,300 price.

“I also bought a used **Conestoga** 80-bu. manure spreader in mint condition (www.conestogamanurespreaders.com; ph 855 822-1976). It’s an absolutely beautiful machine. The only problem is the manufacturer does not stand behind its product (that’s a joke).”

Dorn Cox, Lee, N. H.: “I have used a Chinese-built **Boaz** 2.0 rubber-tracked mini combine to harvest about 60 acres of barley, wheat, oats, canola, sunflowers, rye, vetch and buckwheat (www.eqmachinery.com; ph 781 577-2298). I have yet to try it on corn



or soybeans. It’s perfect for diverse grain crops on just a few acres because it can be quickly trailered from field to field and requires minimal adjustments between crops. It also has a zero-turning radius for minimal headlands.

“It’s hydrostatic and operates very easily with a joystick control for steering and header height. I bought the 8-ft. head (a 13-ft. was optional but the 8-ft. is easier for transport). It weighs about 6,000 lbs., which means it can be transported on a standard car trailer.

“In heavy canola or weedy barley it harvests faster than my old Gleaner K2. The auger, feeder housing and twin axial threshers handle weeds and green material very well, feeding smoothly. They open from the top for easy cleaning. Because of the dual chamber threshing design and small head, a fairly high ground speed can be maintained without risk of plugging. The lack of straw walkers also shortens the length of the machine and minimizes sensitivity to fan adjustment.

“The chaffer and sieve are easily accessible with a wide swing-out access panel in the back. One benefit of the tracks and side-mounted feeder housing is that the engine, hydrostatic pump and belts are all easily accessible from the ground.

“Nothing has broken on this combine in 2 years. My main complaints so far are that the narrow grain bin is a bit smaller than I would like and it’s prone to bridging if there’s green material in the grain. Also, the antifreeze it came with was not sufficient for New England winters, which I found out the hard way. Some of the plastic fittings, knobs and tensioner rollers are cheap and brittle feeling but, in general, the sheet metal, frame and general construction is good.”

Tom Wessman, Albert City, Iowa: “After reading about **Tomcat** rat snap traps in FARM SHOW, I tried them and had great success (www.tomcatbrand.com; ph 877 332-0755). “Sometimes I use feed as bait, or I just put the traps where the rats run. It’s best to wire the trap to something, as I’ve lost some traps when a rat just got caught on one leg. One thing I like is you can release the rat without touching it.

“My **Patriot** solar electric fencer didn’t last long, even after it was repaired. So 2 years ago I bought a **Gallagher** solar electric fencer, which works much better (www.gallagherfence.net; ph 815 534-1173).”

Richard Ward, Clifton, Ariz.: Richard likes his **Renogy** solar system (www.renogy.com; ph 909 517-3598). “The complete package I bought included a solar panel (8.3

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

me about it. I bought it, and now they make them for sale as well.

“It cost \$24,000, but it has been a best buy. I’ve had it for 3 years and use it every day, weather permitting.

“Another best buy was the deer stand I built. It is about 4 1/2 ft. in the air with a ramp. I can drive my wheelchair up and inside. It even has a satellite TV dish, so we can catch a game if we want while hunting. In the fall, if I’m not fishing, I’m hunting.”

Rick W. Christensen, Cokedale, Colo.: “I cut 4 to 5 cords of wood every year and, after 10 years of using a 20-in. Husqvarna, I was getting too worn out to split and stack wood. So at 69 years old, I tried a 2013 **Stihl** 180C chainsaw. It’s light, powerful, very low maintenance, and much safer. No more getting so tired that you start lunging into your work.

“I saved \$3,800 on grader tires and \$800 on tractor tires at **Simple Tire** (www.simpletire.com; ph 888 410-0604), which is headquartered in Oklahoma City. Great shipping rates and prompt service.”



Brad Miller, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio: “Hard digging is a lot easier since I bought a **Dig Rig** that fits over the top narrow lip of my shovel. Made in the U.S., it’s especially handy if you have to do some digging with soft-soled shoes. It’s a lot easier on my