

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Spencer Lemings, Malden, Mo.: He farms three thousand acres and has had approximately \$4,000.00 in diesel fuel and numerous batteries stolen from his irrigation pumping stations over the past few years. After suffering these losses, he realized he had to find a solution to the problem. “I tried setting up regular trail cameras, but I wanted something that would text or call my phone. I ended up finding a **Bushnell Wireless Trophy Cam**. As long as you’ve got a cell phone signal – and it doesn’t take much of a signal – this camera will work in remote areas.”

You can buy the Bushnell Trophy Cam online at Amazon, eBay, and at retail stores like Cabelas. Lemings has purchased several refurbished cameras for less than the new asking price and been very impressed with the service. The screen on one of them cracked a few months out of warranty, and the service department replaced it free of charge. “We now use a combination of over 40 conventional trail cameras and Bushnell Trophy Cams across our farm.”

Bruce Taylor, Elk River, Minn.: Bruce likes his 2016 **Gopher Hawk** gopher trap. (www.gopherhawk.com; ph 805 486-8225).

fix. They’re made from quality vinyl. The only problem I’ve had is that sometimes they weaken along the folds once you stretch them out over the roof. Those lines of the folds are stress points. However, they last a few years so for less than \$200, I can keep using the building.”

Gary Swenson, Yankton, S.Dak.: “I recently purchased a 2004 **Ford** pickup with a V-10 gas engine and so far so good. My best friend bought a V-10 years ago and he has said numerous times it’s a better puller for his 32-ft. gooseneck flatbed than his other 2 Dodge diesel pickups. I’ve been pulling a



trailer with my V-10 and couldn’t be happier with the power – and that it gets 10 mpg. This is not my coffee shop pickup. I have another pickup for that. But when I need power, the Jolly Green Giant comes out of the machine shed. My wife calls my two pickups the Beauty and the Beast.

“In my opinion, if you only pull trailers occasionally, a diesel is not needed. Diesel replacement parts are often much more expensive. For example, on my old Ford 7.3 diesel I had a dealer replace a fuel filter and it cost \$160. On my gas V-10, I replaced it myself and it cost \$8. My grandpa always said, ‘It’s not about how much money you make, but how much money you can save.’”

Royce Ohrt, Montezuma, Iowa: “I am a long-time reader of FARM SHOW and have been interested in hydrogen generators for improving gas mileage ever since I first read about the idea many years ago. I recently retired and decided to put a unit on my 2013 Ford F-150. I ordered a **Hydrostar** unit for \$665. My mechanic worked for 16 years at a dealership and has had his own shop for 14 years. After over 2 weeks of working on the installation with numerous calls to Hydrostar, with my mechanic going to 20 websites and working with 2 dealerships, we were at a point where we had only one hookup left to make. No one could tell us what wires to use and Andrew at Hydrostar told me it wasn’t his responsibility to provide that information. I informed him that the information should have been included with the installation instructions and that he would be getting the unit back.

“Since he offered a 30-day money back guarantee I would only be out the \$12.50 cost to ship it back plus my mechanic’s time, which ended up being \$300 (he gave me a break on his hours). To my surprise, I received a check for just \$254.50 and a letter stating that I had been charged restocking fees and charges for various websites he had gone to to get information to help me get the unit hooked up.

“I decided to contest the charge with my credit card company. After months of dispute, they finally resolved it in my favor.

“This has been more of a hassle than any purchase I’ve ever made.”

Kenneth Preston, Wheatland, Ind.: “I use my 2005 **Hustler** 52-in. zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 20 hp Honda engine to mow about two acres every week. I’ve never replaced a belt or anything else, and I just installed the second new battery. It’s a great mower.”

Jim Lacey, Trent, S. Dak.: “I noticed in your recent Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys publication that almost all **Dodge** pickups equipped with Cummins diesel engines get high marks if they were built

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**

The trap pushes down into the tunnel, eliminating the need to dig down into the gopher mound. “I had some gophers that were untouchable using regular traps, but with the Gopher Hawk I caught them all right away. It was well worth the investment,” says Bruce.

Thomas H. Black, Russiaville, Ind.: “My 2000 **Deere** 4600 utility tractor has done everything I’ve asked of it and more. However, the hood and cowling are made of plastic. The first year the cowling cracked and I glued it back together. Recently a big hole developed in one side of the hood and I didn’t see it until I needed to use the tractor. When I went to lift the hood, it cracked and broke in three places. It cost about \$800 to replace.”

Ronald Yanos, Varna, Ill.: A 2014 **ShelterLogic** series fabric building rates as Ronald’s “worst buy”. “The zipper on the entrance panel fell apart and, even with a 3-year warranty, I had to pay one third of the cost of a new panel. The bottom seams weren’t sealed properly and the zipper wasn’t sewed on. I sent photos of the problem areas to the company, but it didn’t help. I only hope they do a better job on the next panel.”

Robert Hock, Sharon, Ct.: Robert’s had good luck with **Nite Guard** Solar lights for protection against night time predators (www.niteguard.com; ph 800 328-6647). “For \$20 apiece you get small solar-powered flashing units that keep away raccoons, owls and other night predators including bears, foxes and coyotes. No more owls in my pheasant pens.”

Joseph Sturos, Chassell, Mich.: “I’ve been happy with used vinyl billboard tarps from **Sky Group, Inc.** (www.billboardtarps.com ph 877-771-8277). I read about them in FARM SHOW. I buy three 12 by 30-ft. tarps to cover a 30-ft. building on my place that has a leaky roof. I can’t justify fixing the roof so the tarps are a relatively low-cost