

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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**Nilan Wilson, Linton, Ind.:** “I installed **Bale Skiis** bale liners on my New Holland 68 small square baler ([www.LDAGmachinery.com](http://www.LDAGmachinery.com); ph 866 889-3846). These balers were made from 1952 to 1958, but equipped with Bale Skiis they now work like new”

**Mark Newhall, Lakeville, Minn.:** “We burn a lot of wood in our fireplace during the winter so the **Firemizer** caught my eye when I first saw it advertised ([www.firemizer.com](http://www.firemizer.com); ph 800-848-0477). Invented in Europe, it’s simply a thin layer of specially-manufactured steel mesh that feels a lot like flattened-out



steel wool. It comes in various sizes and lays across the top of your fire grate. The idea is to slow the flow of air up through burning wood, which in turn slows the rate of burning by up to 30 percent. I’ve been using mine for

hard riding. There’s also a lot of rust and loss of paint on top of the deck.

“My best buy is a **DR** wheeled bushwhacker that I bought in 2011. It starts every year with a couple of pulls and I’ve had no problems.”

**Kevan Bahsler, Prince Albert, Sask.:** “In your last issue someone said his “Best Mouse Trap Ever” didn’t catch a single mouse. I bought one of these traps after reading about it in **FARM SHOW** and thought I was alone in having that dreaded experience. I can’t catch anything with it. To make it worse, the shipping to Canada cost more than the trap.” (See letter from manufacturer on page 37)

**Conrad Curren, Spring Grove, Minn.:** His “best buy” is the “rocket stove” he built based on a design he saw on YouTube. “It dropped my wood consumption from 5 cords a winter to just 2 cords and only cost \$150 to build and install. The design of these stoves is just amazing. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for ‘rocket mass heater build KCS ranch’ and you’ll find a video about the one I built.”

**Walter Perry, Newport, N.H.:** Walter says the 2006 **Deere** Buck 4-wheeler he bought 8 years ago is his “best buy”. Deere introduced the Buck in 2005 and it was produced by Bombardier in a partnership between the 2 companies. It was not continued for the 2007 model year.

“It was a demo model with about 60 miles of hard use on it. I tried it out and loved it. It has a ‘slide-through’ seat that makes it easy to get on and off. That’s important to me as I’m only 5 ft. 4 in. tall. I haven’t had any trouble since I bought it. I use this machine to plow snow, haul firewood, and to go fishing.”

**Larry Simcik, Big Sandy, Texas:** “It’s the best \$2,500 I ever spent,” says Larry about the 1965 **Oliver** 1850 diesel tractor he bought used. “I spotted this tractor sitting in a pasture off a main highway and stopped to look at it. Both rear tires were ragged. I talked to the owner, and we came to an agreeable price on the condition I could get the tractor to start. It belonged to a nice lady who had lost her husband, but it had been idle for several years.

“After I rebuilt the injector pump and replaced the battery, it started right up. After replacing the rear tires with a set of good used ones and changing the oil, we put the tractor to work and we’re still using it. It runs great, pulls hard, and sounds good. I’m proud of this tractor - it’s a highly valued addition to our farm.”

**Lee McKnabb, Shelby, Iowa:** Lee has about 300,000 miles on his 1989 **Dodge** Dakota pickup but says it still runs great. “I’ve used this pickup to haul some really big loads, but it just keeps on going. The engine and transmission have never been touched.”

**Marvin McWilliams, Marietta, Ga.:** “In 1982 I bought a used 1965 **Massey Ferguson** 135 diesel tractor. Other than a small engine oil leak, there have been no problems. It’s a great tractor.”

**Larry Lowe, Clay City, Ind.:** “I like my **Deere** X370 riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. However, I’ve had problems with my **Deere** X745 equipped with a 62-in. deck. Often it won’t start due to a problem with the fuel solenoid on the carburetor.”

**Ed Callison, Winterset, Iowa:** “Our 1993 **Kawasaki** 220 Bayou 4-wheeler has required only minor repairs. We use it to check on cattle and to spray weeds, and our grandchildren like riding on it. I wish I knew how many miles were on it.”

**Ken Haag, Unionville, Mich.:** “It never lets us down and has required very few repairs,” says Ken about his 1998 **New Holland** 1720 4-WD loader tractor. “It rides on turf tires, which we really like because they don’t tear up our yard. This tractor is fuel efficient and has a lot of power. We use it with a sicklebar mower, manure spreader,

# 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](http://www.FARMSHOW.com),  
or E-mail your comments to:  
[Editor@FARMSHOW.com](mailto:Editor@FARMSHOW.com)**

a couple months now and it definitely reduces the amount of wood burned, but I’m not sure how much. However, the thing I really like about it is that it keeps coals from dropping down under the grate so the fire doesn’t burn down as fast and the pile of coals on the mesh provides a nice glow as you let the fire burn down. When you go to make the next fire, just shake the ashes off the mesh.

“Firemizer says the metal mesh will last the equivalent of continuous burning of wood 12 hrs. a day for 6 weeks. I showed the idea to my brother-in-law, who doesn’t like opening his wallet much (it sells for \$28 on Amazon.com). Instead of buying one, he cut out a rectangle of wire mesh and fitted that to his fire grate. It might not block as much air flow as my Firemizer, but it cradles the ashes and does seem to slow the rate of burn.”

**Kent MacDougal, Yonges Island, S.C.:** He’s happy with **Sealoflex** waterproofing system ([www.sealoflex.com](http://www.sealoflex.com); 877-423-7663). “I used Sealoflex to roof an addition to my tractor shed. It’s like laying fiberglass. A special fabric is imbedded into it, which has the pink color of bubblegum. You use a brush or roller. When it dries, there is a finish coat that comes in a dozen colors. It’s UV protective. And it cleans up with water, like latex paint. Two years later the roof is still sealed tight and should last many more years. You can use it on wood, brick, basements, and more.”

**Jack Fulton, Sioux City, Iowa:** “My wife and I bought a used Toyota that only had one key. We found out later that to get another smart key costs \$340 from the dealer. So be sure you get 2 keys when you buy a used car.”

**Milford Scharlau, Lyndonville, N.Y.:** “My worst buy was a 1050 **Cub Cadet** lawn mower bought in 2013 at Home Depot. I went through 4 belts the first year. The factory replaced one. It’s hard to steer and