

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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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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Tony Ryba, Johnstown, Penn.: “My 2016 **Ford F150 XL** regular cab is a good truck. The 5.0 engine gives gas mileage in the low 20’s on the highway. The springs, with a load of firewood, hold up reasonably well. The stock mirrors give a good view for backing up. Many options can be ordered for this truck, but not the ones I would want – manual transmission, locking hubs, grease fitting for the ball joints, tie rod ends, U-joints, and a dipstick for the transmission. Perhaps such features are now too technical for the average person. Most people will be happy with this truck but I’m still attached to my beloved, simple 1976 F-250 4-WD Highboy. That truck is a street legal farm tractor.”

Joe McGinnis, Blairsville, Ga.: “I bought a 2012 **Kawasaki 4010 Mule** and only had it for 2 weeks when it quit running because the plugs were fouled. This happened several more times and I complained to the dealer about that and the poor fuel consumption and its inability to idle. I took it to another dealer 90 miles away who kept it for 3 weeks and it still would not idle and surged at driving speed. I eventually got it adjusted myself so it would idle but the mileage was still only about 5 mpg. Kawasaki would not

PowerTrac to bale hay. The tractor can lift 1,800 lbs. in the bucket. I’ve had very few issues after 1,400 hrs. There are no gear boxes, driveshafts, or U-joints, making any repairs quick and easy. I would recommend PowerTrac to anyone considering a skid loader or utility tractor (www.powertrac.com; ph 305-819-3700).

Gary Parsch, Hope, Mich.: “Henry got it right 63 years ago with this 1954 **Ford NAA** tractor. It starts in any weather, is easy to work on with cheap parts, and is very rugged and built to last with high quality.

“My **Jotel F3CB** cast iron wood stove was built by the oldest stove company in the world, founded in Norway in 1853. It has heated our whole house for 8 years and still looks and performs like new. I paid a little more but it has been worth it.”

Bob Clifton, Patastala, Ohio: “I bought a **Bad Boy ZT60** mower in the fall of 2015. When it got hot, it would just quit. I tried all the usual fuel problems to no avail. I’m 82 and have worked on engines all my life so I wasn’t going to let this thing beat me. The problem ended up being a manufacturing defect. The 2-piece plastic intake manifold had a hole where it wasn’t welded in the area where the carburetor mounts to it. I didn’t want to take the time to fool with the Kohler company so I sealed it with silicone rubber and it hasn’t skipped a beat since. My only wish now is that it had a larger gas tank.”

Harold R. Keller, Glouster, Ohio: “I bought a new **Ford F-150** in May of 2016. A nice truck, nice ride, good mileage, no problems. Except – the spare tire was mounted under the bed and out of sight, where it collects dirt and road salt. I decided to mount the spare in the bed and noticed it was not the same size as the tires on the truck. The spare is an inch larger in diameter – or more than 3 in. in circumference – which means this mis-matched spare tire will gain over 3 in. every revolution. This difference would definitely have to work out somewhere and it wouldn’t be good. So I bought a replacement spare that is the right size for \$300. If you buy a Ford pickup, be sure to check the size of the spare before you take delivery.”

Darrel Bates, Philadelphia, Miss.: “My **Kubota M6040** mechanical front wheel drive loader tractor works great. No problems. We use it to mow pastures, do tillage work, and move dirt.”

Ray Wilson, El Campo, Texas: Ray has had problems with the **Earthquake** rototiller he bought from Tractor Supply Company. “Whenever I wanted to use this machine, I had to take it to the shop first just to get it started. The fuel lines rotted off before it was 6 mo. old and, at about 2 years, the engine locked up.”

Don Guritz, Allegan, Mich.: “Over the years I’ve been well-pleased with **Ryobi** products. I own at least 40 of their tools.

“My **Wagner** paint remover is difficult to hold and doesn’t do a good job. My **Wagner** handheld spray painter leaked paint.”

Ambrose Brennan, Towanda, Penn.: “My 2 **Bolens** riding mowers are both excellent machines. The 1987 23 hp. model has power steering, but not the 22 hp. model which I bought used. I’d like to buy a power steering cylinder for it. Can anyone help?”

Robert Nelson, Kamiah, Idaho: Robert bought a **Deere 7-ft. wide, front-mounted snowplow** for his 2013 **Deere 5075M** utility tractor. “I use this heavy-duty, hydraulic-operated plow on my 1/2-mile long driveway. I also use it for light dirt work. I like not having to turn around all the time because it saves on my neck and back. It only takes about 1 min. to replace the bucket with the snowplow.”

Leland Schwandt, Wilmot, S. Dak.: “We use our **Deere SX Gator** every day to get

help, especially once it was out of warranty. Another problem is that the front end was so out of alignment it tore the tires up before I noticed.”

Bruce Klosky, Derry, Penn.: “I use **Motorkote** engine oil treatment in all my engines, transmissions and hydraulics. It proved its worth when the head gasket blew on my zero-turn mower. All the oil was pumped out onto the ground as I drove it back to the garage. The engine was running hot and without oil. When I disassembled it to make repairs, I found no damage to any of the internal parts and there were no ridges in the cylinders, even after 1,500 hrs. of run time. You can buy Motorkote at Walmart.”

Bruce also likes his **PowerTrac 1445** loader tractor. “It’s a 4-WD articulated front loader with a high-flow hydraulic pto. This



is my go-to tractor as it’s very maneuverable and has plenty of power for most chores. It has a 45 hp. Deutz air-cooled diesel and hydraulic drive. The machine has a low center of gravity and can handle a variety of attachments with its front-mounted hydraulic quick-attach hitch. Attachments include a loader bucket, 6-ft. brush mower, trencher, mini hoe, posthole auger, snowplow, and hay spike. I installed a hydraulic drive motor on my 4 by 4 round baler and use the