

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

Rex Pio, Edgerton, Kan.: “Our 2016 **Landstar** UTV is the best hired man we’ve ever had. We call it Little Red. In the spring, ‘she’ helps in our garden flower beds and around the yard. In the summer, she hauls water to livestock and flowers. In the fall and winter, she hauls firewood.

“I made the 5 by 8-ft. gooseneck trailer that I pull behind our 1986 **Honda** 250cc 4-wheeler. The trailer has no springs but has



a walking beam axle. It will haul a big square bale that’s up to 1,200 lbs. I use it to haul hay out to livestock on pasture. The Honda gets used every day. It’s fitted with a hand clutch made out of pvc pipe that really helped when I had a knee replacement. The engine has never been overhauled. I’ve replaced the tires once.”

Raymond Zorn, Olpe, Kan.: “I have two **Golden Fox** 2200 buildings I purchased from GMLS Industries in Peabody, Kan. One

noticed that calcium buildup in the toilets now flakes off if I push on it with a screwdriver, instead of needing a hammer and chisel. I think this thing really works. They sell for about \$20 on the internet.”

Jerry Maurer, Springfield, Ohio: “Last spring **FARM SHOW** reported on my ‘best buy’ **Power Trac** PT-422 4-WD, articulated lawn tractor equipped with a 22 hp. gas engine (www.power-trac.com; ph 800 843-9273). The tractor is now 15 years old and needed some repair work so last September I took it back to the company, which is based in Tazewell, Va.

“They had the tractor for a week, and during that time they took it completely apart; welded all the stress cracks caused by metal fatigue; repacked all the cylinders; pressure-checked all the hydraulic pumps and rebuilt them as needed; rebuilt wheel hydraulic motors as needed; replaced any bad hydraulic hoses; checked all the bolts and fittings; installed a new wiring harness and ignition switch; rebuilt the foot pedals; replaced 10 gal. of hydraulic oil; and power washed and repainted the entire tractor. I think they would even have replaced the engine if needed.

“It was like getting a brand new tractor, at a fraction of the cost. Power Trac is a small, family-owned company that builds tractors and mining equipment. Great company service.”

John Johnston, Baltimore, Ontario: “Three years ago I bought a used **Deere** 336 small square baler at an auction. As soon as the bidding stopped, a guy who used to work at a local dealership told me I had just bought the best baler Deere ever made. The following summer I discovered he was right. With my old Massey baler I could never get the bale strings tight enough. But this baler makes bales as tight as bricks, so now I can stack bales way up high in our haymow. I wish I had bought this baler 20 years ago.”

Jeffrey Buckner, Canon City, Colo.: “About 3 years ago I had to rebuild the front end on my 1999 Dodge 2500 4-WD pickup. I had read articles in **FARM SHOW** about **Luke’s Link** solving Dodge Ram steering problems so I decided to give them a try. The company converts the ball stud end on track bars and tie rod ends to a fully adjustable end. However, after installing the parts according to the instructions, I don’t see any difference compared to replacing the tie rod ends and ball joints with stock pieces. Also, now I hear a clunking noise whenever I turn the front wheels while driving at slower speeds.

“The pickup’s steering improved after installing the Luke’s Link components, but I can’t really say it’s any better than if I had used stock replacement parts. I’m not sure the extra time and work involved was worth the cost.”

Duane L. Stinemetz, Marysville, Ohio: “My **Woods** BW 180 rotary mower and **Jeep** Liberty are best buys. Also, I like **Deere** equipment built before 1990.”

R. Schlatter, S. Hutchinson, Kan: He’s the satisfied owner of a 2007 **Ford** Focus 2-door coupe. “It has about 218,000 miles on it but still has the original engine and transmission and doesn’t use any oil. Very few repairs. Its worst feature is high road noise.”

David Reuland, White Lake, S. Dak.: “No problems with my 2017 **Dodge** Ram 2500 HD pickup equipped with a 6.4-liter Hemi diesel engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. It’ll pull almost anything and gets 18 mpg empty.”

Larry Ackles, Chambers, Neb.: “I’ve had good luck with **Deutz** 65 hp., 3-cyl. diesel engines in Ditchwitch backhoes and trenchers. I haven’t had the same luck with **Wisconsin** gas engines.”

Glen Ray Goodson, Galax, Va.: “I’ve already used my 2017 **DR** 9 hp. wood chipper

ceiling. The other is a 2009 24 by 48-ft. with an 11-ft. ceiling that’s sprayed with a 4-in. thick layer of foam insulation. The picture is of the 2009 model with a curtain roll-up door. There’s also a 36-in. walk-in door.”

Kent Frerichs, Wilmot, S. Dak.: “I’m very pleased with my 2017 **Mighty Mule** 660 gate opener. It works great on an 18-ft. gate. Saves a lot of time and is convenient, especially when going in and out of pens to feed cattle. A small solar panel keeps a 12-volt battery charged. I recommend beefing up the bracket that fastens to the pivot post. We did that right away so it wouldn’t break loose. The opener needs to be adjusted occasionally.”

Ted Lacey, Trent, S. Dak.: “I was at an auction recently and bought a box of goods. Inside was a **Softron** magnetic water conditioner.

About 2 weeks after installing it on our main water line, I noticed the cloudiness of our silverware was gone and glasses were cleaner. The coffee tastes better, too. In addition, I’ve

