

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
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William Watner, St. Marys, Kansas: “About 1 1/2 years ago I bought two U.S. General 5-drawer rolling toolboxes from Harbor Freight. I use them in my welding/repair shop every day and they work great.”



Kevin Irwin, Little Rock, Ark.: Kevin likes the **Reel-Quik Hitch** he mounted on back of his pickup (www.hitchrific.com; ph 501 821-0000). “I have to hook up trailers by myself and this hitch saves me a lot of time and aggravation. I can back up to within about 18 in. of the trailer hitch and then reach out the last few inches with the Reel-Quik, set the trailer on the ball, and then reel it back in and lock it in place. It’s a great product.”

I contacted several people who were selling their units on eBay, and none of them had anything good to say about the machine or the company’s tech support.”

Doug Owens, Oxford, Iowa: “We found our 1984 **Deere 314** garden tractor in a barn a few years ago, and it’s still running great. The Kohler engine has plenty of power, is easy on fuel, doesn’t use oil, and is easy to maintain. We use this tractor to mow 2 acres of grass every 4 to 6 days. Most of the time I can still get parts from my dealer. This tractor is bullet-proof, and I’d buy another one.”

“Our 1450 **Cub Cadet** garden tractor steers hard and doesn’t do a good job of mowing, even with new blades and deck bearings. The wheel spacing on back of the tractor is too narrow, and as a result it just doesn’t cut grass like our Deere. Parts are sometimes hard to find. If our dealer has to order them it takes 2 to 5 days. I plan to sell this tractor and buy another Deere.”



Richard Rowison, Hanover, Mich.: “I bought a **Cyclone Rake** new in 2007. It’s still in great shape and works like new. Picks up leaves well with no hand raking needed. Wise investment for the cost. And a great time-saver. Folds flat for storage with removeable wheels and motor for easy storage.”

Richard V. Crump, Canaan, Ct.: “My **Deere 3220** 32 hp. tractor has plenty of power to operate my 5-ft. Land Pride rotary cutter and my 6-ft. finish mower. It also has a nice road speed.”

Michael A. LeFevre, White Cloud, Mich.: “My **Metabo W9-115** 4 1/2-in. angle grinder runs at 10,500 rpm’s and has a lot of power. I’ve used a lot of 4 1/2-in. angle grinders throughout my working career, but this one is the best.”

“I’m not happy with the **Central Machinery 12-in.** sander, equipped with a 6 by 48-in. belt, that I bought at Harbor Freight. The belt is extremely difficult to align and the entire machine is crudely constructed. Also, the base isn’t designed to carry the weight of the sander. I should have known better.”

Larry Murawski, Port Austin, Mich.: “My 2005 **Deere 9560** combine is easy on fuel and has a nice cab. It’s also fun to drive. I wish the company still made this combine.”

“I love my 1972 **Deere 3020** diesel tractor.”

A. Calvin Coulter, Chaplin, Ky.: “I had good luck using **Mechanic In-A-Bottle** in my 1972 **Cub Cadet** garden tractor. It’s available at Walmart, and works in any 2 or 4-cycle engine, to clean and repair the fuel system without having to remove the carburetor or injectors.



In the past I always had to remove the needle valve and clean it every spring, but not any more. Now I use this product on all my garden tools and also on my old **Farmall H** tractor. It lives up to the company claims.”

Dave Georgesens, Evansville, Ind.: “My **Cub Cadet 50** zero-turn riding mower is equipped with a steering wheel instead of steering levers, and the front wheels steer more accurately because they’re not caster wheels. As a result, this mower can handle hills and slopes without scalping the ground or spinning the rear drive wheels.”

“Our **Amana** front-load clothes washer didn’t clean clothes well or rinse out the soap,

Matt Stewart, Huachuca City, Arizona: “We recently retired to five acres in Arizona, and I wanted a multi-purpose tool to maintain the trees and shrubs in our yard. I looked at several different brands before settling on the **Stihl Kombi Tools**. I started with the hedge trimmer/pole pruner combo.

“This tool has exceeded my expectations and has our place looking great. It’s lightweight, which I like since I’m getting older, and the adjustable shoulder strap on it fits me perfectly. I like this product so well that I recently bought a **Stihl Kombi** blower/vacuum unit. It makes cleaning up our yard an easy job. After six months of steady use, no problems.”

Stephen Hewes, Lyme, N. H.: “In 1974 I bought a **Black & Decker 4-in.** portable grinder equipped with a squeeze on/off switch. I worked this grinder hard, for 30 years shoeing horses and sharpening mower and chopper blades. It always performed great. Last year I finally replaced it with a **Dewalt**.”

John Bohanon, Kevil, Ky.: “Over the years I’ve owned five different **Kubota** machines and still have three of them – an L3010 tractor equipped with a 6-ft. belly-mounted mower; a ZD331 riding mower equipped with a 6-ft. deck; and an RTV 1120D utility vehicle. All of them work great. The utility vehicle rides nice and pulls amazingly well - I’ve used it many times to pull trucks and trailers out of the mud.”

Dave Niehaus, Baldwin, Ill.: “My **PlasmaCAM** computer-controlled cutting table worked only occasionally from day one. It would work okay for 5 min. but then stop, and sometimes it would even take off cutting across a 4 by 8-ft. sheet of steel and ruin the entire sheet. When this cutting table does work right it’s an amazing device. But