

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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Brian Wirkler, Farmersburg, Iowa: Brian’s the owner of a 2004 **Deere** L120 riding mower equipped with a 2-cyl. gas engine and 48-in. deck. “The deck has been trouble-free and the engine has plenty of power. The machine’s big rear wheels make it easy to roll up steep hills. The mower belts have lasted almost 700 hrs. and the blades 400 hrs.

“However, this mower is built too light and its Tuff Torque transmission is difficult to service. Fortunately, after watching a YouTube video on how to service the transmission I was able to clean the magnets. Now it works like new. I also started using 5W-50 synthetic motor oil in the engine.”

Curtis Williams, Cochran, Ga.: “My **WoodMaxx** 7600 backhoe can handle tough jobs. I love it.” (www.woodmaxx.com; ph 855 966-3629).

Richard Rogers, Bentley, La.: “It seals pipe joints and fittings amazingly well,” says Richard about **Leak Lock** joint sealing compound (www.blueridgecompany.com; ph 866 361-4782). Leak Lock is a brushable paste that remains permanently flexible and can be used on threaded and flanged joints, gaskets, and all mating surfaces where a fluid-tight seal is required.

good at first, but then quit after just 15 tubes of grease. You’re supposed to press a thumb lever to release the coupler from the zerk, but if there was any pressure at all I had to use a needle-nosed pliers to get the coupler to release. Later on, I couldn’t even get the coupler to lock onto the zerk.”

James P. Ellen, Enfield, N.C.: “My 1998 **Ford** F-250 pickup equipped with a 5.4-liter engine has more than 385,000 miles on it but still runs great. The only major repair was to replace the rear end.”

Raymond E. Miller, Paris, Tenn.: He’s happy with his **Milwaukee** 18-volt, 1/2-in. drive brushless impact wrench. “It’s compact yet powerful and comfortable to operate. Also, I like not having to drag an air hose around with it.”

Maynard Hartke, Litchfield, Ill.: “In 1976 I bought a **Hesston** 30A Stackhand. The machine picks up windrowed hay and chops it, then packs it into a chamber. The bales come out looking like giant loaves of bread, and nothing is tied. The machine can also be used to stack corn stalks for livestock bedding. It still works great after all these years.”

Robert A. Bryant, Decatur, Ala.: “My 2000 **Chevrolet** Tahoe has about 314,000 miles on it but still has the original water pump and hoses, front brakes, and alternator. And, it still doesn’t use any oil. I change the oil every 3,000 miles.”

Marita Turner, Merville, Iowa: “It works as well as advertised,” says Marita about his 2015 **Jari** Monarch walk-behind mower equipped with a 7 hp. Kohler engine and single 36-in. blade (ph 507 625-3340). “This mower ‘walks’ right through hemp taller than my head. It might look like something out of the 1960’s, but why change something that works perfectly fine? The machine came equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine which had problems, so the company replaced it with the Kohler which starts right up on the first or second pull.”

Jerry Proctor, Brandywine, Md.: “My 2007 **Exmark** Lazer Z HP zero-turn riding mower runs great and cuts grass like a champ.

“My 2015 **Massey Ferguson** 1742 tractor handles great and has plenty of power. However, it can only go about 8 hrs. on a tank of fuel.”

Joe Wasson, Middletown, Iowa: Joe’s impressed with his **Greenworks** cordless chainsaw (www.greenworkstools.com; ph 888 909-6757). “I bought this saw for my wife to use because she has trouble starting my gas-powered model. We’ve lost several trees to spruce blight, and she uses this saw to cut the trees down to burn. Works great and has a long battery life.”

David D. Smith, Boston, N.Y.: “My **Bad Boy** Magnum 27 hp. zero-turn riding mower works great and is fun to operate.

“I bought a 2-pack of **Wildgame Innovations** game cameras from Tractor Supply Company on sale for just under \$50 plus tax, and sent in the warranty card. However, I was able to take only 4 photos with one camera and 3 with the other before both cameras quit working. The problem was that the icon arrows used to set up the cameras disappeared.

“I emailed the company and explained the problem and they sent me authorization to send the cameras back, which I did. It cost me just over \$10 in postage. They sent me two identical cameras but both had the same problem.”

George E. Harper, Gandeenville, W. Va.: “I like the **Hose-A-Matic** wall-mount garden hose reel I bought at Northern Tool (www.northerntool.com; ph 800 556-7885). It comes with 66 ft. of 5/8-in. hose. The position lock system on it allows me to pull the hose to any length and lock it into place, and its ‘self-layering’ tracking system makes



John Daugherty, Gray, Ga.: John likes his **All American** lawn mower blade sharpener (www.allamericansharpener.com). It comes with a vise that’s used to clamp 1 3/4 to 3 1/4-in. wide blades up to 30 in. long. Models for both standard and mulching blades are available. All you need to go with it is a 4 1/2-in. angle grinder, a 40 or 60-grit flap disc, and a work space to mount the jig.

“The jig holds the angle grinder at a 30 degree angle to the blade, which remains stationary while I move the grinder,” says Daugherty. “It works much better than having to move the blade into the grinder.”

He likes his **3M** WorkTunes wireless hearing protector headphones with Bluetooth technology and AM/FM digital radio (www.3m.com). “It makes cutting grass much more enjoyable.”

Michael Shull, Leitchfield, Ky.: “After using smaller models for years I bought a used **Kuhn** GT 4120 rotary rake. It gently sweeps hay into windrows that cure quickly, without any wet spots. The hay never gets ‘roped’ so it feeds evenly into my balers. Also, the hay is cleaner because the rake tines don’t run in the dirt. We liked this rake so much that we recently bought the company’s newer GT 4121 model.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his **LockNLube** grease coupler. “It worked