

“Best Buy” Tarp Roller

Louis R. Langlois, Limerick, Maine: “I have read in your magazine about problems with the **John Deere LX 188**. My 1997 model works just like the day I bought it. I tune it up every year with a kit from the dealer. I wish this model had an hour meter. I have thousands of hours on it, and I still love it.”

Roger Jones, Frankfort, Kan.: “I bought a **Kubota 54-in. zero-turn mower** in 2018. It rides well and I can mow as fast as I can drive it.

“I purchased a new 2019 **Cub Cadet** lawn tractor with a 50-in. cut. When I use it, the battery runs down. I’ve had it back to the dealer three times and the battery still runs down. I won’t buy another one.”

Larry Newland, Northfield, Minn.: “My **Stihl MS 311 chainsaw** is no match for the old MS 310. It has no power, so I don’t use it. My 12-year-old MS 310 is 10 times the saw.”

William K. Hayden, Frankfort, Kan.: “A 2013 **Kubota L3800 4-WD tractor/loader** was my 80th birthday gift. It was a truly great gift. It’s tough, rugged, and has good power. I’ve used this tractor like a bulldozer with no problems. It has a step that us old guys can use to get on and off safely.”

Beltone hearing aids can be found on William’s “worst buys” list. “I purchased two hearing aids from the Beltone store for a very large sum of money. I was guaranteed by the store manager that I would never have to buy hearing aids ever again. I lost the left hearing aid. They replaced it but unknown to me, the store manager accidentally reported the right serial number as lost instead of the left. Later, when the right hearing aid needed repair, Beltone confiscated it from me saying I had reported it stolen earlier and must have been trying to defraud the company. No more Beltone for me.”

Brian Haataja, Osage, Minn.: “My 1962 **Deere 3010 diesel tractor** works great with no problems. I use it for haying. I wish Deere still made them today.

“I have a 1992 **Ford F-150 4-WD 6-cyl.** that I use for snowplowing and farm work. It’s a good pickup but could be geared lower.”

Nordin Brinkman, Fosston, Minn.: “I am 83-years-old, so I don’t have any ‘best’ or ‘worst’ buys anymore. But I enjoy **FARM SHOW** magazine so much and go through it from cover to cover. Keep it going!”

Howard Garves, Sparta, Wis.: “My **Chapin 4-gal. 20-volt backpack sprayer** is easy to use and adjust. I sit it next to me on my UTV, spraying out to distances of 15 ft. Or I can put it on my back. It’s a great performer (www.amazon.com).”

Howard isn’t quite as happy with his 2004 **John Deere 5205**. “These newer tractors do not have enough weight for adequate traction. Horsepower is good, but unless the tires can ‘bite’, it’s useless.”

William Horrell, Blairsville, Penn.: “I have found a lot of good products in the **FARM SHOW** magazine. I have purchased from companies in your magazine. You have a lot of good ideas.”

Gail Ennis, Flora, Ind.: “My two daughters and I all bought **Sears** washing machines. After three years, all three of them fell apart within 2 mos. of each other. They’re made overseas. Don’t waste your money on Sears machines.”

Scott Perry, Canton, Conn.: “I bought a **Pequea HT4102 hay tedder** new last May. It’s well-built with a strong frame, axles, tine bars, and drive. It performs perfectly and runs quietly. The 4-bolt rims and tapered roller bearing hubs will be much appreciated when it’s necessary to change the tires.”

Doug Comden, Brethren, Mich.: “The 2020 **Hypertherm** model 45 plasma cutter

cuts 10 times better and is more dependable than any other plasma machine I’ve used.”

John Larson, Bellevue, Mich.: “In 1980 I purchased a 36-in. **Husqvarna Husky 181** and in 1983 I added a 20-in. Husky 154. Both chainsaws have been my ‘best buys’ of all time as they have held up to a lot of use and always run like champs. My 181 has cut 10,000 plus cords of wood and never fails me. I call it my ‘log hog’.”

James Schlabach, Tazewell, Va.: James is pleased with his **Echo trimmers (SRM-210 and SRM-225)** and chainsaw (**Timber Wolf CS-590**). “Echo power tools start easily, have plenty of power with minimal vibration, are lightweight, and fuel efficient.”

He also likes his **Hercules cordless impact driver and drill/driver**. “The batteries last well, they have plenty of power and are affordable.”

Bill Henophy, Massena, N.Y.: “I bought a **Swisher 60-in. mower** to mow my large field. This mower works very well and mows great. The problem is when a belt breaks you almost need to take it all apart to change the belts. It’s a very intricate job.”

Tom Daniels, Arco, Minn.: “Two years ago I bought an electronic ignition kit for my **Farmall M** at my local auto parts store. The clerk was helpful and made sure I had the correct unit. The tractor runs smoother than it ever has before.

“I’m also pleased with the metal roof I had installed on my house. We get terrible winds here in SW Minn. and shingles seem to find their way to the ground. So far this roof has stayed in place.”

Larry Maiers, Stewart, Minn.: A **Deere 1026R subcompact tractor** with loader and auto-connect mower deck is Larry’s ‘best buy’. “I use this tractor at my lake home. I’ve had no issues. I also purchased a tie down kit from **Redline** for transporting it that’s handy to use. I have a rear weight kit with 20-pound suitcase weights (20 of them) for ballast when using the loader. I also bought a rock-type bucket that I use for cleaning weeds off the lakeshore. It’s built heavy-duty and is a great little tractor.”

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On the negative side is the **BarxBuddy**. “It absolutely does nothing to stop a dog from barking. It was a waste of my money. It’s supposed to use ultra-high frequency to stop dogs from barking. Worthless.”

Warren Teates, Lynchburg, Va.: “My 2017 **Deere Gator 8251** starts easy every time in hot or cold weather. It will go anywhere in 4-WD. It’s the best, most reliable machine I’ve ever bought, and I’ve bought many.”

Brian Beyerback, Burgetstown, Penn.: “My **Yanmar SA221 tractor** is one of my best purchases. It’s easy to operate and very comfortable. It’s easy to get on and off. I use it every day for all kinds of little jobs.”

Brian Longcore, Sand Lake, Mich.: “I bought a used **Craftsman** Nextec right angle impact driver with two 12-volt batteries, an attachment to charge phones, and a box of bits for \$50.00. The impact driver gets used almost every day. What a bargain.

“The battery on my **Hudson NeverPump sprayer** went dead after 2 to 3 years. It won’t take a charge. Also, it’s a 4-gal. backpack and weighs approximately 50 pounds loaded. Too heavy for this old man.”

Charles Johnson, Conway, S.C.: “My 2016 **Kubota zero-turn ZD221** is dependable. I like the adjustable control for height which

Brian Flom Kenyon, Minn.: “The **Thunderstone 7000 power tarp roller** that we installed on our 38-ft., 1,000-bu. **Maurer grain trailer** works extremely well. (www.thunderstonemfg.com; ph 402-435-4249). I especially like the way it saves time at the elevator during weigh-in.

“When the elevator is busy, rolling the tarp off by hand always took a couple of minutes extra that nobody wants to waste during harvest. Now we can use the remote to unroll the tarp from the cab as we’re driving onto the scale. The weigh-in is done as soon as we stop, and the probe sample can be pulled right away.”

Flom and his farming partner ordered the device direct from Thunderstone and installed it themselves. “We could’ve had the company install it, but that would have cost nearly \$1,000 and the better part of a day waiting for it to get done. We did the install over two days and really didn’t have any glitches. The directions were clear, the parts bags were well identified, and we only called the company once to ask a question.

“We picked the Thunderstone 7000 for several reasons. The hinged joints on the roller arms provide constant tension to the tarp when opening or closing, which is great on windy days. The tension can also be adjusted. We also like that the motor, keypad and other components are sealed tight against moisture or dust. Electrical connectors are also weather and dust-proof. It has polished aluminum arms that match our trailer, and



Flom likes his tarp roller because it saves him time during harvest and likes that the components are sealed from moisture and dust.

it operates with a hand-held remote from the cab or a switch box on the front of the trailer. The cab remote only uses power when its cover is open, so that saves on batteries. Another big factor for choosing the 7000 was the 3-year warranty on parts and a 5-year warranty on the motor. It cost a little over \$2,000.

“We’d recommend this power roller to anyone regardless of what trailer you have. It’s available in polished aluminum, black, white or hammered gray.”



Allaway likes his Jang seeder for its versatility, control and ease of operation.

“Best Buy” Seeder For Veggie Crops

Reid Allaway, Les Cedres, Quebec: “I set up a 3-row **Jang** vegetable seeder on a custom hitch that I use behind my Planet Jr. BP-1 walk-behind tractor. The seeder system works great for different vegetable crops in tilled soil and plants 3 perfectly parallel rows that are ideal for mechanical weeding. The JPH-U row units are mounted on a 1 1/2-in. square tool bar with a Tilmor hitch that connects to the Planet Jr. power unit. When the transport wheels are fully lifted, they provide some weight to help the seeders follow ground contours, each mounted independently on its own parallelogram linkage.

“The setup is very quiet and pleasant to use because last year I converted the BP-1 from a gas engine to battery-electric power. It purrs along and I can hear the seed units rotating as I move across a field. The Jang seeders excel at handling a wide range of small-seeded vegetable crops, providing good singulation, consistent depth control

allows it to cut tall grass without using a bush hog.

“My 2020 **Chapin 2-gal. sprayer** has had problems holding pressure.”

Chris Thomas, Whitestown, Ind.: “My 2019 **Bad Boy** mower is well-built with a strong heavy gauge deck. It’s fast and has a very clean cut.”

Tim Ojala, New Ipswich, N.H.: “Our tractor front tires kept going soft, a real

and good closing and firming of the furrow. The quick-release hoppers make it easy to empty and clean the row units for different types of seed. In-row seed spacing is adjusted by swapping gears for the hopper mechanism’s chain drive and by adjusting the gap at the hopper outlet. Jang has more than 50 custom size seed rollers available, each made from anti-abrasion plastic that prevents static electricity buildup during planting. Foam-covered press wheels gently cover the planted rows for excellent seed-to-soil contact.

“We’ve used a single row Jang push seeder since 2009 and have probably grown nearly \$1 million worth of vegetables with it, so spending \$5,500 CAD on the 3-row rig was a safe bet for our farm, especially since it can be operated without tying up a 4-wheel tractor, though we’ve also successfully hitched the same seeder to a 3-pt. tractor hitch.”

I put about 1/2-gal. of **Ultraseal** tire sealant in each front tire and haven’t pumped them up again for about two years. Some leaked through the bead and sealed it up. Well worth the money.

“I bought a telescoping metal handle push broom for trucks from **AW Direct**. The thin wall metal handle kinked, bent and broke in two. Give your product to us Finns to test and we’ll let you know.”