

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

and has plenty of power. It shares batteries and chargers with other Worx tools.

"I have mixed feelings about my **Black & Decker** 18-in. gas-powered chainsaw. It has plenty of power and starts well in cold weather. In warm weather, it starts the first time but won't start again after refueling."

Dick Chatterton, Avon, Ill.: "Four years ago, I purchased a **Stihl** 120C battery-powered chainsaw. It's the handiest tool on the farm—no fuel mixing, no pulling, just sawing."

Markham Dossett, Waco, Texas: "My **Deere** 5103 50-hp. tractor is heavy duty and dependable."

Markham isn't impressed with his **Kubota** MX5000 50-hp. tractor. "The fuel tank fills with condensation causing the engine to quit. The connections to the 3-pt. hitch continue to fail."

Gerard Waters, Summerville, S.C.: "My best buy is my **Makita** 7 1/4-in. dual battery-powered circular saw. This saw has great power anywhere on the property. The batteries fit all Makita tools. The charger has a fan for cooling. Cutting small trees and fixing wooden fencing was very satisfying."

James Putney, Royalston, Mass.: "In 2005, I purchased a 1994 **Case IH** 495 loader tractor. I use it as an all-around chore tractor. The only repair needed was a water pump. Life would be great if everything was this reliable."

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Garry Sumlic, Weirdale, Sask.: "My 1996 **Dodge** 3500 diesel gets 24 to 25 miles a gal. It has over 400,000 km on it, and I haven't done much for repairs."

Garry had a negative experience with **Kumho** tires. "These new tires were so bad they couldn't even balance them. Walmart didn't return my balance and recycle money."

M.D. Grattidge, Palo Cedro, Calif.: "Unlike gas saws, my 2020 battery-powered **Echo** 16-in. chainsaw always starts. You just need to have the battery charged properly. I'm 92 and so the light weight is good for me."



George Van Arsdall Sr., Youngsville, N.Y.: "I've been working on cars and trucks for over 60 years, and doing painting and construction work, too. **Zep** Cherry Bomb is without a doubt the best hand cleaner I've ever used (www.zep.com; ph 877-428-9937). It leaves my hands clean and soft, not dried out, with a pleasant smell, not an overpowering citrus smell."

JB Stonestreet, Stephens City, Va.: JB likes his **Deere** 332 diesel lawn tractor with 50-in. deck that he purchased used. "It has

1,300 hrs., uses no oil, and is always ready to mow. The 16-hp. Yanmar diesel will mow rings around an Onan on a **Deere** 318 with 18 hp."

Daniel Byers, Columbia, Ky.: "My **Stihl** 2-in-1 chainsaw sharpener is economical, very effective, user friendly, and with little effort, you have a sharp saw."

"I saw the **Timberline** hand-cranked saw sharpener in FARM SHOW. It turned out to be a total bust. It was expensive and ineffective. Not one good, sharpened chain was ever produced by it for me."

Daniel Considine, Rathdrum, Idaho: "My **TYM** (Model T474H) 4x4 tractor with bucket loader that I purchased new is powerful and can easily drag large trees. The 6-ft. pull forward snowblower makes quick work of snow."

On the negative side is Daniel's **Cub Cadet** CC4175 4-cycle trimmer. "I bought it new, and it's never run well enough to use. I replaced the carb and still can't use it. I guess I could drain the fluids and use it as a boat anchor."

James McLaughlin, Mannville, Alberta: "In 1969, I bought a 1963 4010 **Deere** diesel. It's still running as a loader tractor after 54 years, two cranks, a rear-end rebuild, and three clutches. It's the absolute best."

James isn't pleased with his 2003 **Dodge** 1/2-ton c/w 5.7L pickup. "I spent a lot on lifters and various other engine and drive line repairs. I was unlucky with mine; I have neighbors who had a lot less grief."

Stephen Gredler, Reva, Va.: "My best buy is **Black Star** Rust Converter and Barrier (www.mrochem.com; ph 800-788-9195). I used this on my garden tools at the end of this season. It performed beyond my expectations. Garden shovels, forks, picks and diggers needed a halt to the rust. I also restored my mining shovels and picks. It's a very good product."

Gerald Wanderi, Perham, Minn.: "I like my **Milwaukee** M18 Fuel leaf blower. It works well to clean leaves and chaff off equipment and light snow off sidewalks as well as to blow soybean pods out of soybeans while unloading."

"My one-handed **Milwaukee** Hackzall is handy for trimming small branches. I carry it along on my lawnmower to trim branches as I go by."

"My 19.2-volt **Craftsman** tools are good but have poor battery life."

Freddie Engelbrecht, Wallis, Texas: "I've had no major problems with my 2007 **Chevy** Silverado Classic 1500 and it has 149,000 miles. It's had routine maintenance since it was new. It's the best pickup I've ever owned."



Duane Stamm, Fayette, Ohio: "I've used **Stuart's** health products for 2 years now. They've kept me walking, along with Arizona

Mark Newhall, Managing Editor: At FARM SHOW we regularly read hundreds of publications and websites. The members-only group forum at the **American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA)** is one of the best sources of information out there for anyone interested in raising poultry on pasture for retail sale to the public.

Discussions among members going back to 2003 are archived under topics such as production, marketing, processing, health, nutrition, shelter design, feed and more. Members taking part share their real-world experiences with producing pastured poultry.

A recent discussion focused on websites for selling online. Some of those mentioned have been covered in FARM SHOW. The following is a condensation of comments. For more on the subject, go to <https://pasturedpoultry.groups.io/g/APPPA>. Like most discussions, they start with a question that leads to sharing of information from experienced members.

Chuck and Lisa reported trying **Square** (www.squareup.com) but found it didn't work well with varied weights of birds. They switched to **Eat from Farms** (www.eatfromfarms.com). While they found it was low cost and worked, it was missing things that other sites offered, like search engine optimization (SEO).

SEO helps move a website closer to the front of the line when a search is initiated. Search Google for pastured poultry and you get 5.4 million results. Their farm, White Oak Pastures (Vol. 37, No. 1), is third on the list, indicating a highly optimized site.

Other sites the couple considered included **GrazeCart** (Vol. 45, No. 5) and **Barn 2 Door**. While they found both great, the price tag was higher than they felt they could justify selling less than 10 orders per month from their website. Should they spend more money given their few orders or try something else?

ankle braces (www.steuartlaboratories.com; ph 877-210-9664)."

Wesley Ellis, Jamestown, Ohio: "My best buy is my new 50 by 23 by 17 metal building by **Reliable Metal Buildings** (www.reliablemetalbuildings.com; ph 306-453-6410). I'm very pleased with it."

Gordon Bischoff, Jamestown, N.D.: "The best buy of my life is my **Farmall H** purchased in 1944 by my dad for \$945. I'm still using it."

Joseph Bone, Virginia Beach, Va.: Joseph's best buy is a 2016 **Dodge** Ram 1500 Hemi. "It's pulled many 20-ft. garbage trailers to the dump during mission trips."

His worst buy is a **GE** dishwasher. "It died after 2 years. I replaced the motherboard. It died again within 2 days. GE is off my buy list."

Bill Hoefler, Shepherd, Mont.: "My best buy is my **Milwaukee** Surge hydraulic impact driver. No other brand of 1/4-in. impact driver even comes close to this new impact. It's very quiet, has much less vibration, and has adjustable torque settings. I feel it's worth every penny."

"Another product I'm very pleased with is the **Troy-Bilt** zero-turn Mustang mower. It has a Kohler engine and the same trans/drive assembly as a Husqvarna zero-turn but is considerably less money. That could be an introductory price due to Troy-Bilt being new to the zero-turn market. I couldn't be happier with it."

George Weller, Stanstead, Quebec: "My 2021 **Honda** Pioneer 520 side-by-side UTV is very useful and works well for various

Mike at APPPA responded in detail regarding the purpose of a website and how the multiple purposes affect SEO. He suggested taking advantage of free trials of any online marketing websites, some of which offer ongoing marketing consultancy and/or offer courses. He encouraged setting up and demonstrating the technology to see if they understood it, liked it and could live with limitations.

Dave didn't think simply switching sites would do much to increase sales, possibly not enough to cover costs. He warned that improving SEO ranking requires a lot of time and effort, no matter what site a person is on.

Once you find a new customer, work is required to retain them, he warned. He advised having one person on the farm be dedicated to the project, regardless of the online site they went with.

Jerica endorsed the tips from Mike and Dave while emphasizing building sales before investing in a higher-cost e-commerce website. She recommended making it easy for customers to place orders, which she said doesn't require an expensive platform. She advocated for a strong website for the farm that told its story, something her farm has maintained as it grew sales separate from the online platforms they eventually used for sales.

Shelly suggested asking what customers wanted and the producer wanted before selecting an e-commerce site. She uses **Shopify** at a low monthly rate and laid out the reasons why.

One of the beauties of the group is the members asking the original question respond to the input. As they clarify their question, it often leads to even better, more detailed suggestions.

APPPA is a great place for pastured poultry producers of all sizes to go for answers to problems and ideas to grow their businesses.

tasks. We use it in the garden for disking and mowing and in the woods for hauling wood, as well as for other jobs around the farm. We use it for plowing snow in the winter. Also, it has a winch that comes in handy."

Doyle Motsick, Panora, Iowa: "My absolute favorite tractor is my **Case** 1370 that I purchased new in 1977. Routine maintenance and tires are all it's ever required. It's never had a service call. It's just a basic, fuel-efficient, quiet, nice-handling tractor."

Elmer Hochstetler, LaGrange, Ind.: "I bought a new **Makita** electric 120-volt, 14-in. concrete and steel saw. It's portable, and I don't have the engine exhaust inside a building. I just plug it in and pull the trigger. There is a cordless version, but it's much more expensive."

Leo O'Connell, Albany, Ore.: "I like my industrial **Cub Cadet** lawn mower. It's a zero-turn riding mower with steering wheel. It's the best mower I've ever had. I mow about 1 1/2 acres around trees. It's 5 years old and I've only replaced one belt."

Joseph Bowles, Avenue, Md.: "My 2021 **Ford** F-250 pickup is good on fuel. The warranty was honored."

"It's hard to get parts for my 2011 **Deere** lawn tractor."

Ronald Tyczynski, Spring Lake, Mich.: "My 2021 **Power Trac** articulating tractor with backhoe is built like a tank. It's compact and works well in small spaces. It's versatile with many implements available. Maintenance is simple and DIY. I will pass it down to my grandchildren."