

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

the repair would be \$400 to \$500 and that he knew exactly what was wrong. In fact, he was working on one at the time that had just 7 hrs. on it. He said they have very poor electrical components and that I'd be better off buying a Generac or Honda, both of which he does not sell. Pretty sad day when a B&S service guy tells you not to buy their product. The motor itself still runs great so I'm selling that to recoup a few bucks."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.D.: "I've found that a great battery for my tractors is a marine heavy-duty 900-amp deep cycle battery from Walmart. Costs only about \$109."



Ben Parks, Austin, Texas: "I highly recommend **Rainbow** wasp spray. The ordinary sprays you buy at hardware stores don't work nearly as well. We have a lot of red wasps, which are very aggressive, and Rainbow spray knocks them down every time. Rainbow makes an excellent line of products. (www.rainbowtechstore.com; ph 800-637-6047).

James Stauffer, Port Trevorton, Penn.: "My best buy is a small **Makita** 42cc chainsaw bought in 2019. It has a lot of power and always starts well, even if it is zero degrees outside. I use it to cut firewood and for carpentry projects"

Ivan Kirk, College Station, Texas: "My 1947 **Massey-Harris** 30 tractor and implements were purchased by my father in 1956 and given to me to start farming on 200 acres that he and his father owned. This tractor has served me well."

Daniel J. Yoder, Cadiz, Ky.: "We have four **Husqvarna** 390 XP chainsaws. We use these saws for logging and have found them to be dependable to start and they hold up well under heavy use. We rebuild the carburetors about every 10 mos. We use ethanol gas and **B3C Mechanic In A Bottle** fuel treatment. They just keep running."



Wayne Sabine, Tilley, NB: "On the best buy side is my collection of **Milwaukee** tools. I have both corded and cordless and

they are all top-notch. An added feature is that if something does go wrong, they are repairable.

"My worst buy is a **Portage and Main** outside wood burning furnace. The heat exchanger sprung a leak after about six years. The company offered a new heat exchanger, but I would have to pay to ship halfway across the country plus the cost of cutting the furnace apart and rebuilding it with the new heat exchanger. The local fabricator I talked with said he won't work on that style of furnace any longer as the fix is only temporary."



Judy Zaspel, Polk County, Wis.: "My husband bought me a **Honda** Rubicon 500 four-wheeler in 2002 as a gift. He thought I wouldn't like it and then he could use it. Well, he was wrong. He ended up having to buy one for himself. My Honda always starts and runs like a champ.

"In 2005 we bought a small farm and added an **Otter** dump trailer (www.otteroutdoors.com; 877-466-8837). The Otter and Rubicon together are a perfect pair and have made many jobs so much easier. We use them for the gardens, yard work, hunting, moving things around, hauling wood and even giving the grandkids rides. Both have held up extremely well and I'd be lost without them."

Doug Laumbattus, New Athens, Ill.: "I like my 2021 **Chevy** 4-WD Silverado 3500 HD LTZ. This truck works. It has a gas engine and it pulls great. It gets 20 mpg on the interstate. This is the most appointed, comfortable truck I've ever had. It looks great and I get a lot of comments."

Butch Lawrence, Sweet Home, Ore.: "My 1992 **Craftsman** riding lawn mower with 20-hp. OHV Briggs & Stratton motor is a best buy. All I've done is an oil filter and oil change every spring and spent \$30 on new coils about five years ago. It fires up and runs like a champ. I'm most amazed that in its 28 years ago under warranty. I know that's hard to believe but I'm a 75 year old maintenance man and I keep records on everything."

"I've also bought 22 **Ryobi** items in 20 years and haven't had a problem."

Anthony Gardiner, Chatham, Va.: "I purchased the **Ryobi** 40V earth auger based on a **FARM SHOW** article (Vol. 45, No. 5). It works like a charm. I drilled six holes in less time than it would take to hook up my 3-pt. auger. It only used 1/4 of the battery capacity. Drilling next to a wire fence without getting the auger hung up in fencing was easy with this product. You do need a firm grip when digging in hard red dirt."

Bob Schmidt, Holdingford, Minn.: "I've been pleased with my **Bauer** 20-volt lithium-ion battery-powered tools from Harbor Freight that I purchased in 2020. My shop tools get lots of use, especially in the winter months when I'm fabricating and repairing for the farm. The battery power lasts a long time. They're very dependable and rugged. I've had no problems and best of all, they're reasonably priced."

David Traer, Griffin, Ga.: "My 2020 **Deere** 1025R is easy to drive, especially in tight places. It's reasonably priced, very low



"We pull the Mach Till with a 440-hp. tractor operating at speeds of 7 to 9 mph, which does an excellent job," says Manthey.

Mach Till Best Buy

Lorn Manthey Kenyon, Minn.: "Our **Kinze** 261 Mach Till hybrid tillage implement does an excellent job working corn stalks in the fall and producing a great seedbed for planting in the spring. This machine is a twin to the Degelman Pro Till.

"In the fall, its corrugated disks cut the stalks and mix them into the soil about 3 in. deep, leaving 20 to 30 percent of exposed residue on the surface. That amount can be changed depending on how deep the disks are running. Corrugated rollers behind the disks press the residue flat and leave the surface quite smooth without any ruts or exposed root balls. In the spring, for corn on beans, we make a single pass with the Mach Till on the soybean stubble, running it about 2 1/2 in. deep.

"We let the field gray off for a day and then plant it without any further tillage. About 10 to 15 percent of the soy residue remains on the surface for an ideal seedbed.

"For beans on corn ground, we run the Mach Till about 2 1/2 in. deep to mix corn residue with the soil and leave about 15 to 20

percent cover on the surface. Any exposed root balls are pressed flat to the surface by the rollers leaving the field very smooth.

"Trash wheels on the planter move away any residue and provide an excellent seedbed for growing beans. We pull the Mach Till with a 440-hp. tractor operating at speeds of 7 to 9 mph, which does an excellent job. The higher speed is important to thoroughly mix residue with the soil. This implement has replaced a conventional disk and a field cultivator with a rolling basket. We still run a chisel plow over field ends or approaches to break up any deep compaction.

"The Mach Till or Degelman Pro Till are heavy implements, built strong to penetrate even dry soils. We like the scalloped disks because they don't leave a flat surface under the worked soil. Before buying the Mach Till we hired corn stalk vertical tillage with a rippled coultter machine done in the fall and spring. That machine worked well but, in our opinion, the Mach Till fractures, lifts and mixes soil and residue better and produces a nicer seedbed."

maintenance and has low fuel consumption."

Mark Zielinski, Harborcreek, Penn.: "I've had my **Kubota** 4-WD tractor with a detachable loader for 6 mos. I like the hydrostatic transmission when using the 5-ft. snowblower. It's the right speed for any snow situation. I think the tractor will also work well with the Howard 5-ft. rotavator. It works very well with the front bucket."

William C. Vance, Greenwood, Miss.: "My best buy is a Harbor Freight **Earthquake** 3/8-in. battery operated impact wrench. I work with heavy equipment daily and it has performed better than I expected. The battery pack has a long life. The wrench will break up to 1/2-in. bolts with no problem. It's light enough that it doesn't hurt my hand or cause any cramping.

"My worst buy also came from **Harbor Freight**. The first time I used the air hammer it performed fine, but the very next day was a disappointment. The air hammer loosens up and will come apart now every time it's used. I must continually screw it back together. I even tried using high-strength Loctite with no luck."

Michael L. Munson, Preston, Idaho: "I'm impressed with my 2005 **Chevy** Colorado. Other than a new clutch and wiper switch, it's been the best 4-cyl. pickup I've owned. I get 37 mpg. My next truck will be another Colorado.

"I learned the hard way that the **Lincoln** Ranger gas-powered welder won't excite the generator if the battery is no good. I went to make a repair and had to jump it to start but it wouldn't make an arc. I sent it out to be repaired and the mechanic charged us for something that could have been taken care of if we knew about the issue. I was blown away by it. It was \$179 plus the cost of a new battery."

Clark Dysle, Scio, Ore.: "My 2000 **New Holland** TC18 small tractor with bucket has 230 hours now. It can get in tight spots and knock down brush and blackberries. I can also load small logs in the bed of my 2-ton farm truck. The 4-WD gets me out of mud patches.

"The batteries on my **Redback** 120-volt lithium battery chainsaw wouldn't recharge even with one light left on the battery. I can't reach the manufacturer in Colorado."

Irwin M. Nolt, East Earl, Penn.: "We are pleased with the good service our **Bobcat** loaders have given us over 30 years."

Carl Zismer, Maquoketa, Iowa: "My 2021 **Massey Ferguson** 1840M tractor now has 300 hrs. It has a very nice cab, and the controls are handy. The pto will disconnect making hook-up easy and a switch on the left fender makes auger work easier and safer. The fuel cap is at the cab floor level making fueling easy. I haven't had any service calls."