

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

squirrels out of my bird feeder. I smear it on the pole that holds the feeder. When a squirrel tries to climb up, it gets that sticky stuff on its paws and jumps down. They don't come back. The product is non-toxic, so it won't hurt the squirrels."



Roger Podoll, Wautoma, Wis.: "One of my best buys is my 52-in. **Hustler** zero-turn mower. Great mower except that we needed a way to raise and lower the discharge chute. We used to use bungee cords, but they were awkward. So, I got a cam-type rope lock off an old boat (you can find them on Amazon.com under marine products) and mounted it on the operator platform where I can easily reach it. A rope ties to the chute and can be easily adjusted to any position you want."

"My other best buy is a mini **Clampfit** for making clamps out of wire. It works on up to .041 wire and gets into tight spaces (www.clampfitertools.com)."

Jerry Yochelson, Shady Side, Md.: "We installed a **Jotul** wood stove inside our home when we moved into it in 1980 (www.jotul.com). It's a small model that handles wood chunks up to 24 in. It heats our 2-story house well enough to be very comfortable if our heat pump furnace breaks down."

"My 2006 **GMC Sierra** Duramax was the best vehicle I've ever owned. I sold it at 600,000 miles after 13 years of good service. It had a standard transmission because I didn't want to have transmission issues due to the amount of driving I do."

"I now drive a 2020 **GMC Canyon** Duramax and have the same problem a reader wrote about in Vol. 46, No. 4. The DEF tank heater failed, and he can't get parts so the truck can't be driven. My repair shop's computer also pointed to the tank heater but replacing it didn't solve the problem. Turned out the line heater was bad and once that was replaced, all was well. I suggest anyone driving a 2.7 Duramax in a cold climate should buy the parts now before it gets too cold."

John Mills, Howell, Mich.: "A few years ago, FARM SHOW had an article on compact crop dividers from Lundell Plastics (Vol. 41, No. 3). I cut the article out and procrastinated about trying them out on our Deere 920 grain header."

"Before soybean harvest this fall, I finally ordered a pair. I would not call them a 'worst buy' but they're certainly not a 'best buy'. All the claims in the article are true. Their Achilles' heel, however, is that if you run into an area where the weeds are taller than the beans, the weeds will wrap around the ends of the reel. We had to stop every half round and cut and pull out the wrapped weeds."

"We finally retrieved our Deere crop dividers from the barn and those resolved the weed wrapping problem. The much wider and taller production dividers protect the reel

ends from tall weeds and beans. I have a set of compact crop dividers for sale real cheap."

Steve Mead, Hesston, Kan.: "After watching a tutorial on YouTube on the 2020 **Titanium 45** plasma cutter from Harbor Freight, I decided to purchase it. Its first use was in restoring an IH Scout. It worked great on all metal, even up to 1/4 in. thick. Since then, it's replaced my torch on smaller jobs. I feel it's more economical since gas for the torch has gone up."

Mike Jacobson, Spring Valley, Wis.: "Milwaukee battery-powered tools are strong and powerful. We have put away our air and electric-powered tools. The portability of the Milwaukee tools makes them super convenient."

"I've used **PB Blaster** numerous times on rusted nuts with success every time."

"Pittsburgh tools from Harbor Freight are basically 'one and done' tools. They're cheaply made with a high rate of failure."

Jim Wagner, Farmington, N.Y.: "My now 19-year-old **Kubota ZD21** commercial zero-turn diesel mower is a reliable, fuel-efficient mowing machine. It has never let me down and continues to work great."

Go with OEM and save the frustration."

"My worst buy is any 'knock off' cordless tool batteries. I finally learned my lesson not to waste my time and money on cheap replacement batteries. Go with OEM and save the frustration."

Ray Martin, New Holland, Penn.: "I like my **Country Clipper** 52-in. zero-turn mower that I purchased in 2004. It's mowed at least two acres per week during the mowing season for the last 18 years. Yearly oil changes, a couple of sets of new blades, one set of spark plugs, and a belt have kept this unit running. It's a great value for the time savings it offers."

Tony Garen, Wilmington, Ohio: "I don't like my **Stihl** weed eater. It doesn't have carb adjustments."

Grant Baseman, Kailua Kona, Hawaii: "I liked **Craftsman** tools for many years (I'm 81). But I'm no longer a fan — they should change the name to 'Crapman' tools!"

George E. Moyer, Myerstown, Penn.: "My **Massey Ferguson 1742** hydrostat tractor is my best utility tractor. I had checked and driven other tractor brands, but none were as comfortable to handle as the Massey. It's easy to get on and off, and the controls are convenient to operate for an 89-year-old farmer. Most other brands have a small hump in the middle of the platform. I'm a below-knee amputee. With a prosthetic leg, it's hard and dangerous getting on and off the tractor with that hump in the way."

James R. Sigmon, Claremont, N.C.: "I like **Mechanic In A Bottle**. It revitalizes stale gas and cleans fuel injectors and carburetors. It also fixes ethanol issues on older engines."

Marlin Nolt, Bridgewater, Va.: "I've been impressed with the battery life and power of my **Milwaukee M12** and **M18** tools. I really like the high-torque impact wrench and the weed eater. The M12 drill and impact driver are very powerful for their size."



Hohmann rates his bale basket from Agri-Link as a best buy.

Bale Basket "Best Buy"

John Hohmann, Pataskala, Ohio: "My Canadian-made bale basket was a great buy 30 years ago and still is. I think I first read about it in FARM SHOW. There were no local dealers, so my implement dealer ordered one just for me. Agri-Link is the brand name. It works great, guiding the bales up and into the basket."

"I like the trip release that dumps the bales out the back. I also appreciate that you can

"The absolute worst thing I bought recently is a 5-ft. **Land Pride** brush hog. It does a good job if the grass is only 8 in. tall or less. If the grass is taller, it bogs up under the deck until it stalls the 40-hp. tractor I use. I wish I could have my old worn-out 5-ft. **Kioti** brush hog back. It would mow weeds and grass that were more than 3 ft. tall."

Dean Rinta, Darby, Mont.: "I bought a **DeWalt 20-volt** weed wacker in July 2021. It's lighter and works better and faster than a gas one. It works great."

Robert Fisher, Burlington, W.Va.: "My 2019 **Kubota GR** series Glide Steer gasoline riding mower is an engineering marvel. This is a lawn and garden tractor with attachments available. The Glide Steer technology allows the 4-WD to turn sharply without turf damage. The most maneuverable and powerful lawn tractor this 74-year-old has ever used."

"I haven't been happy with the paint quality on my **Bri-Mar** dump trailer (model DT612LP-LE). The trailer is built well but it's the worst paint job I've ever experienced. The metal wasn't primed. They just painted over bare metal. The axles and underside of the trailer rusted completely the first year. The paint inside the trailer bed is peeling off."

Russell Korrow, Newburg, Md.: "My wife gave me a **Kubota L3000DT** for my 60th birthday. I'm now 79. This tractor is powerful. I'm amazed at the size of the brush piles I can push. It pulls double plows, a disk, or a 6-ft. Bush Hog. I love the bucket and what it can pick up."

Russell isn't as impressed with his **Cub Cadet 1045** 46-in. deck lawn tractor. "It's hard to start and the mower deck was junk. The deck wheels broke off and had to be welded back on. The decks on the newer XLT are much improved - no problems."

Mark Zimmerman, Greenwich, Ohio: "We've been happy with our top-loading **Speed Queen** commercial heavy-duty clothes washer we bought in 2020. It does a great job of cleaning our clothes. We bought it with a 3-year parts and labor warranty."

Dean Goulet, Colfax, Wis.: "Our 2009 **Kubota 1100** UTV has been very dependable. We use this all the time for checking fences, blackberry picking, hauling dirt, cleaning up brush, picking rocks, and hauling. My wife likes using it, too."

Norm Feyereisen, Hudson, Wis.: "Both my **Scag** zero-turn lawn mower and **Gravely** ATV do a good job and I've had no trouble with either. We usually mow three acres or

leave the bales in the basket and let them cure a little before stacking them in the mow."

"I bought an identical used one a few years ago. I also purchased a bale basket from EZ Trail. It's worked well, but the latch gets loose, so I tie it with a piece of baling twine."

"My son and I have picked up many thousands of bales with that first bale basket over the years, and it still works great."

more twice a week. "I also have several 2-cyl. **Deere** tractors and they run perfectly."

Tom Chenal, Morganville, N.J.: "My **Grasshopper 725** gasoline 61-in. mower with forward deck and attachments is a best buy. I bought this very used mower from a lawn care outfit. It's incredibly versatile and tough. It was manufactured in 1995 and is heavy-duty and dependable."

Walter Clark, Meadville, Penn.: "My best buy is a 2016 **Ford F-150** with 5-liter V-8 that I bought used. It's an excellent, dependable truck with a roomy ride, and I've had no problems with it. I use it all the time on my sheep farm."

"My 2019 **Dremel** multitool ran two times and quit. I replaced it with a **Harbor Freight** model and have had absolutely no problems with it."

Patrick Coppage, Hanover, Ind.: "I like **Flex Seal** spray. I had an old rusty 2 1/2-gal. pail with pencil-sized holes in the bottom. I sprayed the inside and outside with this stuff and it sealed over a dozen rusted places. It's been over 3 mos. and it's still good."

Nathan Love, Williamsport, Md.: "I bought an **Aurosports 10-30x40** monocular on Amazon for just \$34. This is my best buy because the glass is super clear the whole way up to 30x. This glass is just as good as the glass in fancy expensive scopes for a fraction of the price. It also has a good weight to it and feels well-made."

Tim Brennan, Homosassa, Fla.: "I purchased my used 2000 **Ford Ranger** 5 years ago with 140,000 on the odometer. It just turned over 200,000 miles. The only repair I've made in that time is a rear pinion seal. I would buy a new Ranger if and when this one gives out."

Kenneth L. Smith, Waterloo, Ind.: "My Case IH 40C with loader, backhoe, and front-wheel assist runs great and has lots of power."

Dan Yocum, Franklin Grove, Ill.: "We have a couple of **Deere 4020s** that we use on the farm almost every day. With routine maintenance, they seem to just keep running."

"I wouldn't recommend a **Cleary** building. My dad bought a 60 by 135-ft. pole building. When the building was put up, the builder forgot to put the ridge and gable vents in, so they came back later to cut them in. All the vents leaked water in. The builder would do nothing to fix the problems, so we got hold of Cleary. They gave us the runaround until the warranty was up. Terrible customer service."