

awful. I've spent \$500, and it's still not fixed. I like the truck for heavy hauling but not how it runs."

**George H. Clark Jr., Seneca, S.C.:** "I have two tractor best buys; my longest running is a 1965 Case 431 diesel, and the most recent is a 2020 72-hp. McCormick X4.30.

"I bought my Case used in 1977 after I left the Navy. It's been a remarkably good tractor. It's strong and reliable. I've made a few changes to her over the years, but mostly, she's still the same old tractor.

"I changed the generator to a 12-volt alternator and made minor changes to the foot throttle. My pasture has Osage orange trees, so I can't keep regular tractor tires on the front end. I went to 10-ply truck tires and have had no problems since.

"My dad thought that, at \$3,200, I paid too much money for it. But it sure made gardening easier. Growing up, we had a horse to plow with, pet, and ride. Then we moved to a Burns garden tiller, which our family wore out.

"The McCormick is a good machine. It's well made, and so far, no problems. It has plenty of power for my needs and is economical for fuel use.

"Thank you for your magazine, and may God bless you and all our farmers."

**Gerald Sladkey, Two Rivers, Wis.:** "About 3 years ago, I purchased a Deere X584 lawn mower. It does everything I want it to do. I couldn't be more satisfied.

"I purchased a soft cabin for my X584 for winter snow blowing. It's the worst piece of junk I've ever purchased. Nothing fit. I had to drill new holes where the bolts were supposed to go. I didn't have enough material to fit over my tractor. Snow blew in all around the bottom. The instructions said it should take 1 hr. to install. It took me a week to make it somewhat fit. It was made in China for Deere.

"Another worst buy is my 2023 Cub Cadet XT1 lawnmower. The mower is so loud and makes so much noise that you need to wear earmuffs when cutting the lawn. It shouldn't be on the market or should be checked by the EPA."

**Joe D. Pope, Columbia, Miss.:** "My inexpensive SENDRY 6-in. mini handheld chainsaw from Amazon works great. It came with two batteries and a charger. The only drawback is that it doesn't have an automatic chain oiler, but for \$39.99, I can live with that.

"My worst buy is a Crosley full-size kitchen range. After 2 years, the oven no longer works, and my repair tech discovered that the manufacturer no longer makes the circuit board that is inoperative."

**Nancy Groeschner, Hokah, Minn.:** "My 2023 Ford Explorer Limited with six seats rides nice and has many creature comforts. It has ample legroom and cargo space. The ride is quiet and has plenty of 'get-up-and-go' when needed."

Nancy wasn't satisfied with her Ashley furniture or the store's service. "In 2023, we purchased four swivel desk chairs (#H675-01A) for just under \$1,000. Problems started almost immediately. The chairs scratched my hardwood floors, the wheels didn't swivel, and the main shaft bent on all four chairs.

"We contacted the store, and even though it had only been 3 weeks, they said it wasn't their problem and to call the company. We

called the company, and they said the store needed to resolve the problem. It took 10 mos. to settle, and they only paid \$300 to fix the floors and \$300 to cover our costs in fixing the chairs ourselves."



**William Sanford, Roxboro, N.C.:** "My most recent best buy is my Max Power weed eater line. After using all of the regular weed eater lines and having them break, melt and jam in the head, I was about to give up. But after watching a product review online (@ProjectFarm on YouTube), I decided to try it. It performs very well and hardly ever jams or breaks. I keep it in water in a plastic coffee can to keep it less brittle."

William isn't satisfied with Chinese replacement parts for small engines. "They rarely fit correctly and don't perform as advertised. Pulse fuel pumps made of cheap plastic break almost every time you try to change a line. Even now, they break very easily. There should be basic standards that manufactured parts must meet.

"Even aftermarket parts made in the U.S. are often of poor quality and have poor fitment and reliability. Make 'Made in the U.S.A.' mean something again."

## "Make 'Made in the U.S.A.' mean something again."

**Hans Nelson, Veblen Township, N.D.:** Hans is impressed with Toro's mowers. "Both of my 500 models have been the best. I purchased a MyRIDE this spring. So far, another great mower.

"Blade speed is the key factor in my satisfaction. Too many brands have slowed the blade speed for safety reasons. I've used a few brands over the years, and I like the results of the Toro machine."

**Leon E. Reynolds, Savona, N.Y.:** I'm happy with my 2024 Kubota B2301 tractor. It's equipped with an LA435 loader and BH70 backhoe. The tractor has powerful hydraulics. The hydrostatic transmission has three ranges and is a pleasure to drive.

"We have many Milwaukee power tool dealers in the area. The trouble is none of them will get you parts."

**Larry Arnholt, Mount Vernon, Ohio:** "I've owned five Chevrolets in my 82 years of life, and the best is the Impala. I bought a new 2015 Impala and was so impressed that I later ordered a 2019 model from the manufacturer. It now has 110,000 miles on it with no problems. The only thing I don't like is they stopped making the Impala. How crazy is that?"

**Edgar Wilson, Alton, Mo.:** "I have several best buys. My Kioti DK6010SE HST is a perfect loader and chore tractor, which I use almost daily.

## Best Buy Landscape Cart

**Michael Eschenbach, Boscawen, N.H.:** "When I first saw the Rock Hauler Landscaper's Cart from Rhino Tool Systems, I thought it was too expensive (www.rhinotoolsystems.com; ph 904-729-7315). However, as I began moving rocks and logs on my new 13-acre property, I had no one to help.

"I had used a wheelbarrow, pry bar and even a backpack to move things around, but realized I needed something more substantial. I have a natural slope behind my house that goes up about 100 ft. to a rock outcropping. I was doing a lot of land art, including developing a small stage and an amphitheater on the slope where people could sit.

"I decided to make the investment, and it's been well worth it. I ordered the Rock Hauler Landscaper's Cart and have used it to pry out large slabs of rock and move them as much as 1/10 of a mile. I even moved an 8-ft. long section of granite curbing, picking it up on the forks and locking it in with the clamp.

"I've used it to move pallets and a giant log. I picked it up with the forks and moved it to the edge of the stage area.

"The landscaper's cart is heavy, and while it would be nice if it were lighter, it has to be heavy-duty to do what it does. The weight of the cart also helps counterbalance what is being moved. In the case of the log, I needed more weight, and my wife joined me at the handlebars to help lift the log and move it.

"Two products seen in FARM SHOW, SealLube and Battery Equaliser, are even better than they claim.

"An older best buy is a Deutz DX 90 tractor. It just keeps on going and will probably outlast me."

On the negative side is a HeatMaster G4000 outdoor wood furnace. "It heats the house and water fine but needs 3-in. by 16-in. wood put in crossways and then stirred every time the door is opened. Even with dead, dry wood, it keeps 1 to 2 in. of creosote in the firebox. I sure wish I'd rebuilt my 25-year-old Hardy furnace. It would burn anything. I'll be surprised if my HeatMaster lasts even 5 years."

**Nolan Eby, Kenton, Ohio:** "I like Milwaukee tools, especially the FASTBACK knives. I bought my first ones because I had friends that really liked them. They're super tough, easily slip in a pocket, and stay there due to the superior clip. It has a smart latch system that's easy to flick open. I don't think I'll buy any other knife."

**Jerry Hess, Sterling, Ohio:** "FARM SHOW Magazine is hands-down my best buy."

**Richard Depenbusch, Zenda, Kan.:** "I drove my new 2005 Chevy Silverado half-ton, 4-WD, short-box truck for 245,000 miles with only minor repairs. I got good mileage with the 5.3L."

**William Clark, Phillipsburg, Penn.:** "I bought a TYM T1003 tractor a couple of years ago with only 1,400 hrs. on it. It has needed a fuel plug and some other minor things, which my local equipment dealer has been very helpful with. Now, it needs tie rods, rims and wheel disks. My dealer has tried to get them for me but has been told by TYM that they aren't available. I contacted TYM in Georgia directly but only got a runaround. I'm very unhappy with TYM."

**Steve Hood, Claremont, N.H.:** "I love my 2021 Subaru Outback. It has a quiet, comfortable ride and good handling. It's not quick off the line but has a fast throttle response when underway. I can haul 700 to 800 lbs. of firewood and do so often. It's



Eschenbach has found the Rock Hauler Landscaper's Cart to be a good investment for moving rocks and logs over hilly terrain on his property.

Placing rocks on the expanded metal panel between the wheels and the handlebars also helps lift or pry big rocks out of the ground.

"I've used the Rock Hauler Landscaper's Cart for nearly every aspect of my project, including moving slabs for use in my patio-like stage. I have also used it to move in multiple large stones to stand on edge as Zen-style lawn art."

good off-road, too. When the battery died just before the warranty expired, my dealer got me in immediately and replaced it with a larger one. They even pointed out the free service that I was entitled to.

"I bought a used Northern Hydraulics 5-hp. wood splitter 20 years ago. I get into some very large pieces of wood (2 ft. dia.) and have yet to find anything it couldn't handle, not even some large, gnarly locust that put it to the test. It's an amazing tool that's only required minor tinkering in all this time."

**Dennis W. Allen, Disputanta, Va.:** "I'm loyal to Ryobi battery-operated tools because they allow you to run multiple tools from the same battery (I believe they were the first to do so), and all my tools have performed well with a strong, lasting charge. I have arthritis in my hands and fingers, and these battery-operated tools don't cause as much swelling and stiffness."

**Norman Shade, Chesterfield, Ill.:** Norman is a fan of his 2011 Kubota BX2360 with an LS243 loader with a 60-in. deck, which he bought used with 500 hrs. "It does everything well and uses very little fuel. It's built to last. I've used it for 200 hrs. since I bought it with no downtime."

Norman isn't happy with his 2022 Pulsar 26-gal. air compressor. "I had this air compressor from Sears for 8 mos., and the oil leaked. They replaced it. The motor burned out five months later, but the 1-year warranty was up. Also, it's very noisy."

**Peter J. Prunuske, Occidental, Calif.:** "My Miller 200 wire feed welder is 38 years old and works flawlessly. My Miller 250 Onan-powered welder generator, which I bought used 45 years ago, starts instantly and generates power at 1,800 rpm. It's very quiet.

"On the other hand, my Fluke mini infrared thermometer spontaneously combusted in my knife drawer. Luckily, I was in my kitchen, or my house could've burned down. I sent photos of the instrument to Fluke for their inspection. They dismissed my concerns without even an apology. Never buy a Fluke."