

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys



Vaughn Norman, Hannibal, Mo.: “I highly recommend **Marcha Labs Wool Wax Crème** (www.marchalabs.com; ph 877-966-5929). It’s fantastic for daily use on hands and feet. It’s recommended for skin irritations, athlete’s foot, cracked hands and feet, diaper rash (fragrance-free formula), rough elbows and heels and more. It can even be used as a leather-softening treatment. The scent in the original formula isn’t overpowering.”

Dean Van Ness, Danville, Iowa: “My best buy is a **Troy-Bilt 22-in. weed and grass trimmer** (model TB22TMK) I purchased in June 2022. It does a great job of cutting grass and weeds. It has plenty of power, starts on the first pull, and it’s easy to replace the trim lines. The Kohler heavy-duty engine provides a lot of power.

“I was disappointed with my two **Sonim** flip phones. They would lose the phone numbers of my contacts that were stored.”

Vernon Clapp, Hatch, N.M.: “I’m the proud owner of a **Kiotti tractor** (model CS2220) with a loader and 54-in. mower. I’ve had no trouble, and it’s one of my best tractors. It’s easy to fuel and service. The controls are easy to use, and the seating position is great. It’s very well-engineered overall. The loader and controls are super as well.”

Dan Spinden, Fort Collins, Colo.: “My **Ego** battery-powered trimmer and blower are durable and convenient. I use them often. They have a long battery life and are lightweight and easy to handle. They’re made in the USA.”



Lawrence Wright, Warner Robins, Ga.: Lawrence is the satisfied owner of a 2023 **Hart 14-in. chainsaw** (www.harttools.com; ph 800-776-5191). “I’m 92 years old and needed something easy to start. With a flip of the switch and a pull of the trigger, it’s ready to go. It cuts great with plenty of power. I can’t start my 14-in. Husky anymore.”

Dave Krell, Kennewick, Wash.: “I found a **Husqvarna 21-in. lawn mower** at a garage sale for \$25. I dumped the old gas out. It starts on the first pull every time. I’ve used it all year, and it does a beautiful job mowing.

“I have a 1953 Ford Jubilee tractor with a factory loader bucket. I recently installed a power steering kit from **Jackson Power Steering** (www.jacksonpowersteering.com; ph 620-357-6546). The installation was easy and straightforward. Now, my 5-year-old grandson can’t wait to jump up into the tractor and steer the wheel.”

John Powell, West Point, Iowa: “I’ve used **Hydrotex** products for over 62 years and represented them for over 32 years (www.hydrotexlube.com; ph 800-527-9439). We offer what isn’t offered by most lube vendors. I’ve been an STLE-certified lubrication specialist for over 24 years. Our

mission is to help equipment owners extend equipment life, reduce downtime and repair, and increase reliability to save the customer money.”

Vernon Hibbard, Harper, Kan.: “I haven’t had any trouble with my **Bad Boy** lawn mower. The battery lasted 10 years before I had to get a new one.”



Gary F. Thomsen, Arion, Iowa: Gary nominates **WINBAG** as a best buy (<https://winbagusa.com>; ph 941-404-6064). “WINBAG is a 6-in. by 6-in. bag with an attached short tube and squeeze ball. It’s made in Denmark. When the ball is squeezed, the bag expands up to about 2 in. thick. It’ll lift 300 lbs. Use it in place of shims to install doors, windows, appliances, cabinets, etc.

“I usually work alone, so installing can be a problem. That’s why I bought two of them. Then, I used them to help level a washer, a refrigerator, other appliances and a radial arm saw cabinet. Once you use them, your imagination takes over. Need a dent popped out of a fender? No problem. I even used them to pry apart two pieces of wood nailed together—no prybar marks.”

Gary has been frustrated with **Bounty** paper towel multi-roll packs. “The towels are made to be used in 6 in. widths. Recently, the ones we buy aren’t perforated correctly, so you get 3/4 of a towel or a towel and a half. Like many products today, every time you buy something, it costs more, but the quantity and quality are less. I call it the ‘triple whammy.’”

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Kirk Bezdicsek, Union Grove, Wis.: Kirk likes his 2022 **Toro 20-in. walk-behind mower** (model 22297) and 2023 **Exmark X Series commercial 21-in. walk-behind mower** with blade brake clutch. “Both commercial-grade mowers are extremely well built, weighing 125 lbs. each. The Kawasaki 180 KAI engine is built to last and includes an oil filter on the engine. The Exmark is a variable-speed drive, while the Toro has three speeds to pick from. They’re mulching mowers without side discharge but have bags for bagging clippings. Toro owns Exmark, which explains the similarities even though the companies operate independently.”

Tom Evans, Greenville, Tenn.: “My 2024 **Stihl MS 251 C-BE Easy2Start™** chainsaw is the easiest starting saw I’ve ever had, and I’ve had at least a half dozen Stihl saws over more than 40 years. Hot or cold, an easy pull of the starter rope gets it going. I’ve never worn out a Stihl saw, just chains and bars.

“I’m tired of **GE** LED light bulbs that don’t last.”

LaRoy Ramer, Argos, Ind.: “My **Scag**



Everbrite is a clear coating that can bring dull and faded metal back to look nearly new.

Garage Door Renewal Kit Best Buy

Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.: “My dark-painted metal garage door was faded and chalky from time and exposure to our Minnesota weather. I looked at repainting and heard from a friend about the **Everbrite** kit to restore metal doors (www.everbritecoatings.com; ph 800-304-0566).

“I was skeptical that it would be a short-term fix, just a band-aid that would have me waiting the following year.

“The **Everbrite** website is straightforward and has a lot of information and testimonials about their products. I ordered the two-car garage door renewal kit in satin finish for \$100 plus \$16 S&H. The kit came with the **Everbrite** coating, **EZ-prep** solution, prep pads, applicator pads, a microfiber cleaning towel, nitrile gloves and comprehensive written instructions.

“Like painting, they tell you upfront that the result depends on the cleaning and surface prep you put in. It took me quite a while to complete the prep, but I figured it would still be better than painting.

“The coating goes on with an applicator pad like a wipe-on stain. It’s a thick and smelly solution that becomes sticky fast. They mention taping off any surfaces near the door several times. You don’t want to get the coating on side door seals or the concrete under the door, as once it’s dry—it starts to set up and dry fast—you won’t get it off. You don’t want any dust or debris getting to the door during application as it would stick and dry to the surface.



Coating kits are available online for different sizes and applications.

“Application is easy and gives the immediate result of a new-looking door. I thought it would dry down dull, but it didn’t. I’ve been very impressed with the results.

“I wish I’d paid more attention to taping off the door edge seals as **Everbrite** will adhere to anything it touches, and I had a few spots where I had some sticking from the coating touching the door seals and sticking to the door. If I had to do it again, I would’ve double-taped everything near the door.

“Overall, I’m very happy with the end result. It took less time and effort than repainting, and the door looks new, even a year later. It was a satisfying project with less cost, mess or cleanup than painting.”

EVZ battery-powered zero-turn mower is nothing short of amazing. With plenty of runtime to mow an average lawn, its performance is similar to that of a gas engine mower without the hassle of engine fluids and belts. Scrap stupid engines!

“One of my worst buys is a portable A/C unit. I have a new house that’s well insulated with spray foam insulation, and that poor A/C unit can’t keep my bedroom cool when it’s hot. I’d never buy another portable A/C.”



Fred Ingle, Charleston, Ill.: Fred is impressed with his **Maxxeon WorkStar 812 Cyclops** rechargeable work light (www.maxxeon.com; ph 877-621-0005). “It’s been through soot from a fire and days of rain, being dropped repeatedly, and forgetting to charge the battery. The magnetic base is severely rusted, and the lens is cloudy, but it still works perfectly.”

Danny Morres, Springfield, Ill.: “My recent worst buy is an 800-ft. ball of **Ace Hardware** landscaping jute twine. When manufactured, the tag end was buried deep in the center of the ball, and it tangled right away. I even left the paper wrapping on. I’ve used twine in my garden a lot.

“Most **Ace** brand products are of poor quality. I’m sticking with name brands.”

Samuel “Doc” Holloway, Riverton, Wyo.: “My **Harbor Freight Braun** magnetic gooseneck light is very handy for working on equipment. The charge lasts a long time.”

On the negative side is a 2008 **Dodge 1500**. “I took it in for normal service. The front axle seal leaked. The truck had a lifetime warranty. The dealer missed one service and inspection. After five years, **Dodge** canceled the warranty. Within five days, I traded it off and bought two new **Toyotas** (4Runner and Tundra). I’ll never buy **Dodge** vehicles again.”

Richard A. Rice, Waverly, Tenn.: “I bought a new **Can-Am HD 8 Defender** in 2018. It’s a rugged and well-made machine around my property. However, off the property, it worked fine until several years ago when it began spitting, sputtering and cutting out while trying to cross the divided highway in front of my house. It starts while waiting for a green light, and I’m committed to moving. This happened twice. It had fewer than 400 hrs. and had never been in mud or high water.