Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

wrench is a best buy for me. It's taken off any truck or tractor tire I've used it on. It has three modes as well as a nut removal mode that slows the tool down after you break a fastener loose. The light is really bright. Overall, it's a great tool."



Daryl Haney, Chenoa, Ill.: Daryl's the satisfied owner of a Ryco Moto turn signal/horn kit (#7202) for a 2022 Polaris 1000XP Ranger (available on Amazon and many other online retailers). "This is the second one of these kits I've installed. The other one was in 2015 on a full-size 570 Ranger. The quality is great, and the instructions and pictures are easy to follow. Part of the kit plugs into the factory wiring harness. The 2022 version has some enhanced features. It looks like it's from the factory. It's a great product, the best on the market for UTVs.

"Another great product is the **Inferno** cab heater with defrost kit for the Polaris Ranger UTV and Gravely Atlas (www. infernoheaters.com; ph 866-730-7169). It has very good instructions and pictures of the unit. It comes with the same louvers as the factory Polaris heat/air conditioning option. It doesn't take away from under-dash storage. It has a 2-speed fan motor and uses hot water from the engine. It mounts to the firewall, out of sight, with flexible duct hoses to the factory locations of louvers. The unit gets hot water more quickly than some because of how they hook into the system ahead of the thermostat."

Larry Dunn, Louisburg, Kan.: "I've been happy with my Stihl battery-powered products. My 14-in. chain saw, leaf blower, and hedge trimmer all last a reasonable time before needing to recharge. There's no gasoline engine to start. Power is immediate—just pull the trigger."

Ron Zeigler, Boonville, N.Y.: "I like my Ford tractors. I have a 1988 4x4 1720 and a 1993 4x4 1920. Both have loaders and ag tires. They're both great on fuel and need little to no maintenance. I can get around in the woods and pastures easily. If I need any parts, our Ford/New Holland dealers are more than helpful.

"I've also been pleased with my 5-ft. **Bush Hog.** I've only changed the blades a few
times since 1988."

On the negative side is Ron's **DeWalt** battery pack used to jump-start vehicles. "It hasn't held a charge since it was new."



Daniel Wentz, Woodbury, Penn.: Daniel nominates his Century Products round poly livestock bale feeders as a best buy (www. centuryproductsusa.com; ph 580-749-7857). "I've had two of these feeders for almost 5 years. My cattle waste less hay than with other feeders. They're very light and easy to move by hand. They come with a 7-year warranty. I recommend them to anyone with cattle."

Chris Miles, Pocomoke City, Md.: "My 2019 Ford F-150 pickup is a great drive. It takes heavy loads with no trouble and can pull heavy trailers."

Ron Shook, Spencerville, Ohio: Ron's a fan of his Argo 6-wheeled ATV from the 1990's. "I can put a couple of chain saws in it and head for the woods when conditions aren't good for a tractor or truck."

Bill Foreman, Mount Victory, Ohio: "My Milwaukee M18 Fuel 1/2-in. impact wrench works great to loosen lug nuts and rusted nuts and bolts. Batteries last a long time and recharge quickly."

Ronald Hoffman, Glen Easton, W.Va.: "We've had GE washers for 60 years with very few problems until 2 years ago when we bought a new one. It's sitting in the yard until we junk it. We bought a new Maytag, and it's just as bad. Why do they put so many electronic controls on them that don't work?"

Richard Mundy, Howell, Mich.: Richard gives top marks to Ryobi battery-powered tools. "I have all the shop tools and 10 years of use from the 4.0 Ah batteries without a single failure."

John Lang, Monmouth, Ore.: "It's been the best purchase I've made recently," says John about his 2021 Kubota RTV520 utility vehicle. "I use it daily around the farm. It's well-built with an all-steel dump box. I've had no problems at all."



Easton Rich, Gridley, Kan.: "A Traxxas Slash 4x4 is one of the best buys I've made in a while. These RC vehicles are very fun to play around with. Once you read the manual and know what they're good for, you're good to go. Their customer service is amazing—they can point you to some of the best performance parts on the market. This RC truck is amazing for street bashing and racing."

David C. Prause, China Spring, Texas: "I'm 90 years young and have bought lots of good and bad stuff. The best product for the price that I've bought and enjoyed is FARM SHOW Magazine."

Web Hatley, Mount Holly, N.C.: "I keep my 2020 Ingersoll Rand 20-volt impact wrench with anvil in my truck for flats. It's never failed to loosen lug bolts on anything from big trucks to tractors to forklifts."

Dan Schmitt, Gilman, Wis.: "About 12 to 15 years ago, I bought a used **Kubota** 2850 with 900 hrs. on it. It's one of the best things I ever bought. It always starts and performs without flaw. I love this tractor.

"Another good buy is my **Husky** 257 chain saw. It's cut lots of wood and never failed."

Eric Philippsen, North Fort Myers, Fla.: "I'm happy with my Toyota Tacoma pickup I purchased new. It's a reliable, high-quality truck that will hold its resale value."

David Dingmann, Richmond, Minn.: "I bought a new 1978 **Hydra-Mac** 14C skid steer for \$5,500. It now has 18,000 hrs. on it. I still use it almost every day. I've had very few problems with it and do all the maintenance."

Dwight Porter, Oshkosh, Neb.: "Although I didn't purchase it recently, my 2004 **Buick** LeSabre is definitely a best buy. It has 324,000 miles and is still going strong."

Dean Swenson, Grasston, Minn.: "My **Kuhn** SR 110 rake is great, and the price was

Harbor Freight Best Buys

Norman Sieting, Rapid City, Mich.: "As far as I'm concerned, Harbor Freight winches are the best things since apple pie, and so is Harbor Freight. I have seven Harbor Freight winches mounted to various pieces of equipment. I use a 2,500-lb. winch to pull logs out of the woods so I can hook onto them with my log arch.

"I've been buying tools from the company since it was Harbor Freight Salvage, a small mail-order operation in California more than 40 years ago. When I saw my first Harbor Freight store, I stopped my truck and filled it with gear.

"I have a bench-top miter saw and a metal break, plus drawers full of tools that are probably 30 years old. If I need to do some welding away from the shop, I pull my Harbor Freight generator on my Harbor Freight trailer to the spot.

"When I look at all the tools I have purchased over the years from Harbor Freight, I think they could fill a truck. That's not counting the stuff I've given away or scranned

"Their return policy is great. I've only used it once. I bought a finish nailer that didn't work quite right. I took it in, and they gave me another, just like that.

"A friend of mine had a Harbor Freight winch, and he lost the fob. He went to a store

"I bought a used **Case IH** 1644. It needed a bit of work, but now it works great."

Ken Ringler, Narvon, Penn.: "I like Milwaukee cordless tools and Deere tractors. Both manufacturers' products are reliable and fun to operate. The best colors are red and green.

"I'm also pleased with my Miller Millermatic 252 MIG welder."

Dave Mertell, Independence, Mo.: "I made my best buys over 20 years ago at Harbor Freight when I bought a 5-ton long reach floor jack and a 20-ton hydraulic press. At 95 years old, I started to restore a 1957 IH Farmall. Those two tools have been the main help on this project because some parts had to be redone. At 98 years, I'm not done yet. I hope to finish before I reach the century mark."

Gene Eastwood, Easton, Conn.: Gene's the satisfied owner of a 2018 Kubota B2650 HSD with an LA534A front loader. "I bought it with a loader and set of forks and made a snowplow for it off an old Cub tractor plow. It's a great machine with no problems. It starts when it's 10 F out and is great on fuel. It's the handiest small tractor that I own."

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Roger Swenson, Dawson, Minn.: "I'm 84 years old. My 2019 DeWalt 16-in. 60-volt chain saw handles all of my wood-cutting needs. I no longer use my gas chain saw, which was getting hard for me to start. This is the best chain saw I've ever owned.

"The brake locked on my **Homelite** 16-in. gas chain saw with less than 10 hrs. of use. My local repairman was unable to fix it."

Glenn Fisher, Homer, Ga.: "My best buy is my 1927 Ford Model T touring car that I bought for \$1,600. The body, coils, wood spoke wheels, and tires are in very good condition. The missing wheel and dash panel have been replaced."



Seiting likes the return and warranty policies, as well as the prices at Harbor Freight.

and asked if he could order a new fob. They asked if he had a warranty, and when he said no, they told him to buy a new winch and get the warranty. Then, they said, 'Bring the old one in with the warranty, and we'll replace it.'

"Service doesn't get much better than that"

On the worst buy side is Glenn's **Ryobi** ZT480e zero-turn electric mower. "I purchased the mower at a farm auction. It ran great for 3 to 4 mos. It started to turn off for no reason. The batteries are always 95 to 100 percent charged. I contacted Ryobi with no help. No dealers were available. The service centers were all full."

Gary Knock, Davis, S.D.: "In 1989, I purchased a new 7-tower Valley center pivot. It now has over 17,000 hrs. of running time without a breakdown. Truly a best buy and a money maker as well."



Timothy Rankin, Gypsum, Kan.: "I've been really happy with my gas-powered DuroMax XP702HP (high pressure) water pump. I did some research into gas-powered water pumps and learned that almost all pumps have a very steep efficiency curve when it comes to gpm vs psi. A pump rated for 250 gpm might only produce 25 gpm at 20 psi, which is a big problem if you want to put water down a long pipe. My DuroMax can make over 100 psi, so even though it's only rated for 70 gpm, it would put out 50 gpm at high pressure."

He's disappointed in his Craftsman 3/8 ratchet. "I bought it as part of a set. It worked great until the switch broke. I took it apart and discovered that the switch was a poor design and very low-quality metal. I replaced that ratchet with a Craftsman with the screws that hold the head together (the first one was a snap ring design). The new ratchet has a much better design but randomly gets jammed, requiring me to disassemble it to get it reset."

Derek Nieman, Sterling, Ohio: Derek's impressed with his 2013 Kawasaki Mule