

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

### Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

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# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

### Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy

Send your nominations to:  
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Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use  
the survey form on our website at  
[www.FARMSHOW.com](http://www.FARMSHOW.com),  
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[Editor@FARMSHOW.com](mailto:Editor@FARMSHOW.com)**

Wayne Leighan, Madison, Va.: “I’ve been purchasing reconditioned tools with great savings through **CPO Tools** (ph 866 308-4276; [www.cpotools.com](http://www.cpotools.com)). They sell great tools in excellent condition. I’ve purchased a Hitachi jigsaw, a Milwaukee battery-powered grease gun, 2 Porter Cable 18-volt Nicad tool sets, and much more. All these tools still work great.”

**Bill Mahle, Ahwahnee, Calif.:** “Our 2008 **Kubota** 5240 4-WD diesel loader tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission works great. We use this tractor on our 5-acre ranch to do everything from hauling dirt to rototilling our horse arena. The loader is equipped with quick-change brackets, making it easy to remove the bucket and replace it with forks. This tractor starts great in cold weather and is easy on fuel.”

**Russell S. Smith, Waco, Texas:** “Last summer my 30-year-old **Deere** 16-in. chainsaw finally quit working. I was told it was built by Echo, so I bought a 2013 **Echo** CS-352 chainsaw. So far it has performed just as well as the Deere.

“I still use my 1991 **Dodge** 250 as my everyday pickup.

“My 1951 **Ford** 8N is my new tractor; my 1946 Deere B is the old one.”

built in the 1990’s. The corn planter is an 8-row, 2500 model which lifts and turns for narrow road transport. The bean planter is a 12-row, 15-in. 82D model. There weren’t a whole lot of them made, but we really like it for beans since all the row units are on the same toolbar. We can get parts for these planters from our Case IH dealer, which is a bonus.”

**Louis Giesting, Batesville, Ind.:** “My 1995 **Dodge** Ram 2500 4-WD pickup, equipped with a 12V Cummins turbo diesel engine and 5-speed transmission, is as tough as a \$2 steak. It still has the original headlight bulbs, and the interior is almost perfect after 18 years. This pickup has about 220,000 miles on it. We used to be Ford guys, but now we own four Cummins-powered Dodges. They have great drivetrains.

“I bought a new radiator from **General Radiator Corporation** with a 5-year warranty and had an experienced mechanic install it. However, within 9 months I had to take the radiator out because a fitting was leaking. It was a lousy product and didn’t even fit into the pickup very well. I told them I wanted my money back, but they would only offer me store credit that was about half the value of the original radiator. I ended up buying a radiator from another company and have had no problems with it.”

**Dale Larsen, Greenville, Mich.:** “I can weld up to 1/4-in. thick steel with my 1992 **Lincoln** SP100 Mig 110-volt welder. No problems.”

**Emil Smith, Franklin, Wis.:** “We’ve had nothing but lousy service from **Dish TV** for the 2 years we’ve been locked into their program. I can say nothing good about them, and we’re not complainers.”

**Ron Stoltz, Lambertville, N.J.:** “I’m closing in on 150,000 miles with my 2009 **Chevrolet** Silverado 4-WD pickup. It runs like a top with no major problems.

“The **Troy-Bilt** garden tractor I bought from **Lowes** literally fell apart and is my worst buy. This wasn’t a genuine Troy-Bilt product, but the company licensed their name to it. We had trouble with it from the start. I finally got **Lowes** to come out and take it back. Lesson learned.”

**Dennis Smith, Marshalltown, Iowa:** “My 2008 **McCormick** MTX 150 front wheel assist tractor equipped with a **McCormick** L160 front-end loader has a lot of power and is fuel efficient and quiet. The loader is built heavy. I use it with a bucket-mounted bale spear and dozer blade. The joystick control is smooth and easy to use, and the shuttle shift transmission works great for loader work.”

On the negative side, he lists his **White** rear-fold, narrow row planter. “I had to do more work on this planter in 2 seasons than I did on my IH planters in 25 years. It has about 60 grease zerks and they’re always plugged. The row units are built too light. It’s hard to change crops and population settings, and the planter squeaks terribly going through the field, which drives us crazy. We were happy to get rid of it and go back to Case IH.”

**Harold Jannin, Perryville, Mo.:** Harold nominates his 2008 **Kawasaki** Mule 3010 4-WD utility vehicle as his “worst buy”. “The fuel pump has been replaced 4 times at a cost of \$180 each time. No one can seem to figure out what’s wrong.”

**David Nemeth, Campbell Hall, N.Y.:** “My friend needed a new engine for his log splitter, which had been in a flood. We went to **Harbor Freight** and bought a Predator engine. It ran for only about 3 hrs. before the ignition quit. The company replaced it, but that one ran for only a few hours before it seized up. The company promptly gave my friend his money back.”

**Steve Bennett, Newport, Wash.:** “I’ve had very few problems with my 1996 **Deere** 1070 utility tractor which I use with a front-

**Jeffrey Oelke, Pittsville, Wis.:** “In 2011 I bought new aluminum windows at Home Depot made by **AJ Windows**. The windows leaked air, which caused the inside casing to mold and as a result I had to replace the inside trim. The windows lost a lot of heat during the winter. I paid a lot of money for these windows, but now I’ll need to spend more to fix them.”

**Gordon Fuller, Barriere, B.C.:** “**O’Keeffes Working Hands** hand cream is the best hand care product I’ve ever used (ph 800 275-2718; [www.okeeffescompany.com](http://www.okeeffescompany.com)). I bought it because I had dry, split and cracked hands. It stopped all the cracking and keeps my hands soft. I also use it on my elbows and heels, and my wife uses it extensively, too. It’s one of the best products I’ve ever used. The company also makes a foot cream.”

**Harold Jorgensen, Portland, Ore.:** “No problems with my 2010 **Toyota** RAV4 sports utility vehicle. It’s fuel efficient and built solid.”

**Steven Feigner, Talent, Ore.:** “The 2009 **Kioti** DK45 tractor I bought used equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe has performed flawlessly and has an easy-to-use, 3-pt. hookup system. Makes it easy to remove and attach a backhoe.”

**Louis Giesting, Batesville, Ind.:** “We bought our first **Kinze** planter used 6 or 7 years ago to plant corn, and it still works like new. We soon bought another one just to plant beans. Both planters are built rugged and are simple to operate. All sorts of aftermarket attachments are available for them and they hold up to our tough soils, even when planting no-till. We get great emergence and stands, which is key to getting good yields.

“Both planters have required only routine maintenance and we plan on using them for many more years, even though they were