

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

It's a bolt-on conversion kit with no need to drill holes to mount it. Bryan does what he says and answers all your questions before and after the sale. If anyone has an old dozer with a bad pony motor, I highly recommend checking this out rather than letting the machine sit."

**Michael Hendrickson, Richland Center, Wis.:** "I have a 1991 Ford Ranger pickup with 314,000 miles. I bought it with 302,000 miles on it for \$100. All I've done since is routine maintenance. It's one of my best buys ever."

**Mark Kjar, Spotsylvania, Va.:** "I wanted to buy a front-mounted blade for my best buy Kubota but the dealer wanted \$2,100 for a



factory unit. Instead, I bought a rear-mount 3-pt. blade from Tractor Supply Company, as well as a few hydraulic cylinders, some hoses and couplings. With some miscellaneous steel, a little hardware and paint, I spent a total of about \$700 to mount the blade on front. What I like about it is that it lets me keep the belly mower on, unlike the factory unit. The plow comes off by removing two pins and unhooking the hydraulic couplers. My tractor came equipped with a loader so the hydraulic control valves remain in place."

**Harold David Rupard, Winchester, Ky.:** Harold nominates his 2008 Massey Ferguson 5465 4-WD 100 hp tractor with cab as his "best buy". "It has plenty of power and the 4-WD works great. I've put about 2,000 hours on it with no problems. I use it to pull a Vermeer 605M round baler, which is also a best buy."

**Richard Groth, Naperville, Ill.:** "I like the chainsaw blade sharpener I bought from Harbor Freight. I only need to take a small amount of metal off to sharpen the blade. It works perfect. There's a little stop that you push the teeth against, and after you lock the stop in place you pull the grinding wheel down. Once one side of the chain has been sharpened, you rotate it 90 degrees the other way to sharpen the other teeth. I bought this unit 2 years ago for \$20; now it sells for about \$35.

"About 40 years ago I bought a Satoh loader tractor equipped with a 2-cyl. diesel engine, and it still works great. I use it with a 4-ft. bucket, a 42-in. Satoh rototiller, and a 4-ft. Woods mower. I have a big garden on my 3-acre property so I use it a lot. It's a 15 hp tractor, but it feels like it has 45 hp. The only parts I've replaced were the starter and solenoid.

"This tractor has a dual range transmission with 6 forward speeds and 2 reverse. It also has a 3-pt. hitch and a 2-speed pto. After I bought the tractor the company was bought out by Mitsubishi, which stopped making the tractor a few years ago. However, I understand there's a salvage yard in Roanoke, Virginia that still supplies parts."

**Christine Hoormann, St. Louis, Mo.:** "For years, my husband Ken has been using Simple Green all-purpose cleaner in his garage on everything from greasy parts to tire whitewalls (ph 800 228-0709; www.simplegreen.com). He passed along a tip to me that he heard at a car show: Simple Green can also be used to do laundry. If Simple Green won't take a stain out of clothes, nothing will. We buy the

concentrate by the gallon."

**Arthur Freymiller, Fennimore, Wis.:** "My 2000 Husqvarna 372 XP chainsaw equipped with a 24-in. blade has plenty of power for its size, starts easy, and handles well. It has never been in the shop. The only repair was to an anti-vibration spring, and I also had to buy a new air filter.

"After I used my MTD riding mower a few times it wouldn't start. The dealer found a valve retainer had broken. The engine was built in China and no parts were available. Neither the company nor WalMart would help."

**Charles Norman, Pine River, Minn.:** "My New Holland 1465 haybine is the best hay conditioner I've owned. This is my fourth one. It works right through heavy windrows without plugging up. Also, it pulls easy."

**Rick Smith, San Luis Obispo, Calif.:** "I find electric chainsaws are wimpy, so when I bought my 2005 Black & Decker cordless pole chainsaw I knew I was taking a chance. I used it on 12 pine trees and more than 40 live oaks, which the fire officials had ordered me to 'limb up' to 6 to 10 ft. above ground. The \$140 Black & Decker works like a dream and made quick work out of cutting hundreds of branches up to 3 in. in dia. It's a lightweight saw, but it works perfect for my needs. My only complaint is that the battery takes 8 hours to recharge."

**Martin Wright, San Angelo, Texas:** "It has more than 400,000 miles on it but still

**"It has more than 400,000 miles on it but still runs great."**

runs great," says Martin about his 1999 Ford F-250 pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine and automatic transmission. "I replaced the water pump and radiator at about 250,000 miles. If I ever need a new pickup it'll be another Ford equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine."

**David Millsap, Abingdon, Va.:** "I like my 1997 Deere 435 round baler equipped with a net wrap attachment. I bought this baler used in 2007, but it has performed like new. It makes 4-ft. wide bales that I can transport 2 wide on a trailer. I use it to make a 4 by 5-ft. bale and have weighed several bales that average 1,200 lbs. Net wrap reduces spoilage and helps the bales keep their shape for more than 2 seasons. Nothing beats a green baler. I know because I've owned red ones and yellow ones in the past, but I went back to green."

**Brian Dyck, Headingly, Man.:** "They did their homework when they built this tractor," says Brian about his 2008 Deere 2305 MFWD utility loader model. "The controls are convenient to use, and the 200 CX loader can be set up in less than 1 min. I use the tractor with a 62-in. mid-mount mower which cuts level, and with a front-mount snowblower that throws snow out up to 50 ft. Even with turf tires, the front-wheel assist keeps the tractor going right through mud and snow."

**Ed Snider, Kitchener, Ont.:** Ed's the proud owner of a 2010 Kubota BX25 TLB tractor. "It's a handy tractor for our small property and eliminates the need to push a wheelbarrow or dig postholes by hand. The loader handles all our snow moving jobs as well."

**Donald White, Hummewell, Mo.:** "My 2001 Valtra 700 4-WD tractor is fuel efficient and starts good in cold weather. It has plenty of power to operate a disc mower



**Laura Meyer, Borden, Ind.:** "The 'Will Borrow' from Wesley Enterprises in Silex, Mo., is a kit for wheelbarrows that adds two back wheels and a horizontal handlebar extension that's about waist high (www.carrilitecorrals.com). This is a great product for women or people with back problems. Since you roll the load instead

of lifting, you can haul more with less effort. The 3 wheels stabilize the load so it won't tip over as easily. A foot-operated brake locks it on slopes. We use it to haul firewood, manure, bricks, stones and yard waste. It's one of the best presents my husband ever bought me."

or baler."

**Phil Carter, New Era, Mich.:** Phil's happy with his 2010 Morton 36 by 45 by 14-ft. building, which he uses as an agricultural handling facility. "It's a high quality building. The construction crew and foreman were a pleasure to work with and always took the time to answer questions and address any concerns we had. The salesman always went out of his way to make sure we were 100 percent satisfied. You can buy cheaper buildings, but if you want a top notch product this company is your only choice.

"Our CornPro bumper pull, 18-ft. livestock trailer handles nice and has torsion axles, which I like. However, the paint job is the poorest I've ever seen. There appears to be no primer under the paint, which is badly rusted after little use. Our salt-covered roads probably are the cause of the rust, but a manufacturer should use a painting process that would last.

"I really like our Bush Hog zero turn riding mower, which we use on 4 acres of lawn around our farmstead. It has reduced our mowing time by half and uses only about 1/2 gal. of gas per hour. It also works great in tight spaces. You use a foot pedal to raise the mower deck, which leaves your hands free. My only complaint is with the Honda engine, which runs cold blooded until it warms up. Also, the battery has to be recharged if the machine sets idle even for just a couple weeks. It could use a higher quality battery.

"Our Bush Hog Trailhand utility vehicle has much higher ground clearance than a Gator or Mule. We use it for general farm chores and to check our orchards. Our employees use it to pick up big chunks of wood left over from tree trimming work, and to handle insect mating disruption devices out in the trees. My grandkids love to drive it, and it helps them learn how to safely operate equipment. The front receiver hitch is useful for pushing wagons and also accepts a 6-ft. snowplow."

**Ray Schwarz, Gower, Mo.:** Ray's the satisfied owner of a 2007 Deere 6415 MFWD tractor equipped with cab. "This size tractor really fits our needs for both loader work and field work. It has some features found on high-end tractors but without all the electronics. The 4-cyl. engine has power and is easy on fuel. We installed Euro-style fender extensions so the windows always stay clean."

**Jeff Neiman, McCreary, Man.:** "I've owned 5 other new tractors in the past, but none came close to the outstanding reliability

and performance of this one," says Jeff about his 2003 Deere 7810 MFWD model.

**Jason Peterson, Boyceville, Wis.:** Jason's impressed with his Miller 212 Auto Set welder. "This machine does a great job welding aluminum and steel. You can let the machine set the wire speed, or you can set it yourself.

"I bought my Snap-On 3/8-in. air drill to replace an Ingersol Rand 3/8-in. model. However, it had less power than the Ingersol Rand and even had less power than our cordless drill. So I returned it and rebuilt the Ingersol Rand model for \$35, which saved me a lot of money."

**Jon Peterson, Bottineau, N. Dak.:** "I find Georgia steel toe work boots to be incredibly warm and comfortable (ph 877 795-2410; www.georgiaboot.com). I work in the oil field industry and live on a farm and these boots have held up to 3 winters of hard use. In the past, I'd usually get only 1 winter or so out of a pair of work boots."

**Jason Best, Waterford, Wis.:** "My 1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee Quadra-Trac has more than 150,000 miles with no problems. It never gets stuck and just keeps on running. The 4.0-liter engine is virtually indestructible."

**George Schneider, Fort Steele, Wyo.:** "My Ryobi cordless self-propelled walk-behind mower is supposed to be maintenance-free, but it's not. The mower's cover kept all the dust and debris inside, and as a result the top bearing 'walled out', ruining the motor. After it was repaired the battery charger quit, and the lower bearing also went bad."



**Mark J. Lussier, New Salem, Mass.:** "My Hawkline Cat. 1 single shank subsoiler is built tough (ph 800 447-2751; www.gohawkline.com). It does a great job of ripping up sod,

roots and rocks and works great behind my 1998 New Holland TC29D tractor, which is also a best buy."

**Dan Klingbiel, Sointula, B.C.:** "My Deere 4010 tractor always starts right up, has plenty of power, and doesn't use much fuel. It's sized just right for our 10-acre farm. I looked at other small tractors, but settled on this one because we have a Deere mechanic

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