

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

By: Mark Newhall  
Editor

Bill Gergen  
Senior Editor

**Carey Van Stelten, Edgerton, Minn.:** “I like the 2005 **Deere** 4720 self-propelled sprayer I bought used a couple years ago. I use it on about 23,000 acres each year. No downtime, and parts and service are easy to get.”

**Norris Kovener, Crothersville, Ind.:** Norris is impressed with the hydraulic multiplier he bought from **V&M Hydraulics** (ph 800 648-6507 or 605 332-4335; www.vandmnc.com). It plumbs into your tractor’s existing hydraulic remote outlets. “I use it to operate a bucket-mounted grapple fork on my Case 580 CK backhoe. It was easy to install and has made my backhoe even more useful.”

**Tony Warner, Alameda, Sask.:** “My worst buy was a 2007 **Jeep** Grand Cherokee equipped with a diesel engine. The company’s ads said I could expect to get about 430 miles per tank of fuel, but I was lucky to get 250. The transmission made a high, whiny noise in drive and the windows were always noisy from the wind. Also, the tires made a growling noise whenever I drove on gravel roads. I traded the Jeep in for a Dodge Grand Caravan.”

**Joe Denatale, Pittsfield, Maine:** Joe’s impressed with his **Holt’s Nut Wizard** for harvesting nuts on the ground (ph 912 389-

and both were wonderful machines until I had about 1,000 miles on them. But now the automatic transmissions on these machines slip whenever they’re cold. My Honda dealer says the problem is due to a bad O-ring in the transmission, and they want about \$400 to repair each machine. Has anyone else had this problem? Why doesn’t Honda recall these machines?”

**Howard Woehrer, Centertown, Mo.:** “It makes good, tight bales that keep their shape and store well,” says Howard about his **Deere** 567 baler equipped with net wrap. “The net wrap option speeds up baling, conserves fuel, and saves wear and tear on both the baler and tractor. Net-wrapped bales that are stored outdoors also keep much better.”

**Jim Cook, Zearing, Iowa:** Small square bales fill a niche in Cook’s forage program. He feeds mostly big round bales to his own stock cows, but he sells most of his hay to farmers, researchers, horse owners, and hobby farmers. They generally prefer small squares.

To reduce labor costs, Cook pulls a **Kuhn** bale sorter behind his baler. The sorter sorts and drops 8 to 12 bales in a tight package. He uses a hydraulic fork, also made by **Kuhn**, to lift and stack the bales.

**Fritz Groszkruger, Dumont, Iowa:** “My **Muck Arctic Sports** boots are far lighter and warmer than any other boots I’ve ever seen, and the soles are easy to clean off (ph 877 215-6778; www.muckboots.com).

“**L.L. Bean** makes a down coat covered with waxed cotton that wind can’t penetrate. Nothing compares to this coat’s practicality and warmth. Both the boots and the coat were expensive, but they’re worth it.”

**Ernie Beachy, Climax Springs, Mo.:** “My best buy is my **C-Crane** radio (ph 800 522-8863; www.ccrane.com). I had this radio for 10 years when the digital dial on it went bad. I called the company to direct me to someone who could fix it. They told me to send it back and they’d repair it at no charge and also pay for shipping. I couldn’t be more impressed with this company.”

**Tom Herden, Sullivan, Wis.:** Tom’s happy with his 2005 **Yamaha** 660 Rhino 4-wheeler. “My wife and I use this machine every day. It pulls full trailer loads of wood and I plow snow with it all winter long. We also use it to pull hay wagons and to haul rocks and dirt for our garden. I keep it well maintained, and as a result it has never let us down.

“My 2008 **McCullough** 16-in. chainsaw didn’t have enough power to cut through a hard loaf of bread.”

**J. Richard Brenneman, Quarryville, Penn.:** “I like my 1994 **Case** 1840 skid loader equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. Day in and day out, this loader is dependable and trouble-free. It fits my farm perfectly. I bought it used in 2001 with about 6,000 hours on it, and now it’s pushing 9,000 hours.”

**Jerry Stull, Howard, Ohio:** “I needed something to weigh my grain for record reporting. The 2009 **Central City Scale** weigh scales that I mounted on my Kinze 400 grain cart solved the problem (ph 308 946-3591; www.ccscales.com). **Gambier Welding**, a local welding shop, removed the cart’s axles and tongue, then welded on the new axle sensors and a tongue sensor. My tractor battery supplies the 12 volts needed to operate the monitor. I’m amazed how accurate these scales are. Last year I bought another scale for my other grain cart.”

**Ralph L. Osborn, Robinson, Ill.:** “I use my 1986 **Deere** 650 compact tractor to work my food plot, using implements that I built myself. This tractor doesn’t use any oil, is stingy on fuel, and has plenty of power. I also own four Deere lawn and garden tractors and have had great success with all of them.”

**Robert Wasierski, Bethel, Alaska:** “I

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy**  
Send your nominations to:  
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,  
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use  
the survey form on our website at  
www.FARMSHOW.com,  
or E-mail your comments to:  
Editor@FARMSHOW.com**

1927; www.holtsnutwizard.biz). “It consists of a rolling wire basket that’s designed to pick nuts and fruit up off the ground. Pushing on a device attached to the handle causes the wires to separate, allowing you to easily dump the fruit into a bucket. It makes gathering nuts an efficient and easy job.

“The Nut Wizard comes in four different sizes that are designed to pick up everything from nuts to seeds, fruits, acorns, balls, apples, oranges, citrus fruits. It’s a fantastic device. I used it on my walnut trees and in my apple orchard. It’s always an ongoing fight between the squirrels and me to see who gets to the walnuts first. With the Nut Wizard, I win.”

**Wesley Walker, Cooper, Texas:** Wesley likes the **Eel-Trax** tracks he mounted on his skid loader (ph 800 404-6978; www.eelriversteel.com). “These tracks are much less expensive than name brand tracks and have allowed me to operate in conditions where I couldn’t go with tires alone. The company is great to deal with and delivered the tracks quickly. For anyone who only needs tracks occasionally, these tracks work well. Great product.”

**Jack Leaf, La Jara, N. Mex.:** “In repeated dealings over the past years, **E&R Seed** has never failed to provide excellent selection, service, quality and price (ph 866 510-3337). The company also carries a vast array of grower and greenhouse supplies. Without question they’re the best mail order company I’ve ever dealt with. I recommend them unconditionally.

“I’m happy with my **Yanmar** FX28D tractor. After putting on some 1,100 hours with nothing but routine maintenance, this tractor remains quite the little workhorse for a very reasonable price.”

**Ronald Ruther, New York Mills, Minn.:** “I own two **Honda** Rincon 650 4-wheelers,