

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

"Also, while working on this machine I noticed the welds that hold the hopper bracket to the base frame have cracked. The problem isn't faulty welds but an over exuberance in grinding to dress up the welds."

**Howard Birr, Albany, Minn.:** "Our 2007 **Deere** Gator is a reliable and versatile machine. We've put more than 350 hours on it with no problems, except for the fuel gauge which stopped working after the warranty had expired."

**Handley H. Edlin, Hodgenville, Ky.:** "My **EdenPure** quartz infrared portable heater is my best buy. It saves me at least \$30 per month on my heating bill. I had a problem with the heater but the company sent a shipping label for me to mail it back and then promptly sent me a new one. I also bought a heater for my daughter and she's well pleased with it."

**Rollin Joy, Bellingham, Wash.:** Rollin's the satisfied owner of an **Echo** 510 chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar, and also an **Echo** 8000 model. "The 8000 model is a little temperamental at starting but it will still keep up with an older **Stihl** 045 model that I've had for some time."

"I've also had good results with my **Deere** 950 and 1070 chainsaws."

**Dennis Kaltenheuser, Elkhart, Iowa:** "I'm impressed with the machinery storage shed I bought from **Bloom Buildings** (Oskaloosa, Iowa ph 641 673-8338). The company was good to work with and took their time and did things right."

**Albert Stocki, Wakaw, Sask.:** "It's a good all-around machine, easy to handle and economical to operate," says Albert about his 2005 **Cub Cadet** zero turn riding mower.

**Thomas E. Farris, Sr., Winchester, Kansas:** "My 1989 **Mazda** B2000 pickup has more than 700,000 miles and is still going strong. I drive it every day."

"My 1991 **Mazda** B2600i pickup is a best buy. I drove it for 10 years and put about 530,000 miles on it."

"The 1993 **Mazda** B2600i pickup I bought used three years ago just turned 300,000 miles and is still running strong. Mazda makes good pickups that require only routine maintenance."

**Gerald Kandell, Clark Lake, Mich.:** "My 2008 **Bush Hog** 'Squealer' mower is built solid, cuts even, and is easy to hook up."

**John M. Grega, Hillsboro, Mo.:** "My **FarmStar** 3-pt. mounted digging bucket holds up well under heavy work loads. I used it to dig a 12-ft. deep pond. The welds on the bucket's tubular frame are strong."

"My 1999 **Stihl** pro series pole pruner always starts right up and just keeps on running. I use it for commercial tree trimming work and also around our homestead."

**Tom Belusko, Granite City, Ill.:** "I think some people have problems with the **Drill Doctor** drill bit sharpener because they don't put the bit in correctly. If the bit isn't centered exactly the sharpener will grind it flat. We've successfully used our **Drill Doctor** to sharpen hundreds of bits, and it has paid for itself many times over."

**Neal Galloway, Lynch, Neb.:** Neal's the proud owner of a 2007 **Stihl** 290XXS chainsaw. "After owning a **Stihl** Woodboss model for 25 years I bought this saw and found it has the same great quality. We use it to cut firewood and to cut cedar fence posts for sale. This company makes a fantastic saw."

**Ken Hoppins, Hoppins Farms Ltd., Huxley, Alberta:** "Since the 1940's we've bought at least 50 different **Massey** combines. Yes, there have been some lemons along the way. But for the most part they've done a great job of harvesting our crops."

**Ronald Fitzgerald, Seeley's Bay, Ontario:** Ronald likes the 59-in., 3-blade, belly-mounted **Woods** mower he uses with his 1959 **IH Cub** LoBoy tractor. "I have a riding mower equipped with a 38-in. deck. This mower cuts about two acres of grass in half the time and with half the gas."

"My 10-year-old **Empire** outdoor furnace works great."

**Chris Dohogne, Lebanon, Mo.:** Chris likes **Verm-X**, an internal parasite control for animals ([www.verm-x.com](http://www.verm-x.com)). "It's advertised as a natural solution made up of herbs for repelling internal parasites. Formulations are available for horses, a range of poultry, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas, pigs and cows. The product is available in different forms - liquid, powder, daily treats, different-sized pellets, and nuggets."

**Jerome Cooper, Jamestown, Ky.:** "It runs great," says Jerome about his 2003 **Murray** riding mower. "I had to replace a mandrel on the deck, but otherwise it has held up well. Even the factory battery held out for four years. This mower still has the original tires and still climbs embankments easily. I had one small problem with the carburetor due to some gas that I allowed to go bad. I drained the bad gas and in a few minutes it ran fine again."

**Eric J. Wise, Omar, Ohio:** Eric says his **Staber** washing machine is his "worst buy". "We were really impressed with the Staber design so we bought the machine. However, from day one it wouldn't balance correctly. Whenever it went into the spin cycle it sounded like there were elves with rubber mallets trapped inside."

"The company reluctantly sent new struts to solve the problem but it didn't help. The drum drive motor went bad when the welds in the tub leaked water. After talking to the sales manager, I learned the drum had a life-long warranty and they sent a replacement. But the new drum's drive motor went bad after only three days. The company sent a new one but it didn't last any longer."

"Finally I emailed the company and also left a phone message stating we planned to buy a new washer within five days and to please contact me. They emailed me two weeks later detailing how busy they were with warranty issues. My wife and I really like our new **Whirlpool** washer, and I happily cut up the Staber model for scrap."

**David Koopmans, Maurice, Iowa:** "I like the 38 by 80-ft. canvas hoop building I



bought from **Winkler Canvas Hoop Buildings** (ph 800 852-2638; [www.winklercanvas.com](http://www.winklercanvas.com)). It makes a cheap storage area for our hay. I put the building on 8-ft. sidewalls with tin on them and erected poles at the end to put hay against. I stack small square bales in it, using a **New Holland** 1002-55 self-loading and unloading bale wagon."

**Tom Neuberger, Canistota, S. Dak.:** "I'm disappointed with the new compact fluorescent light bulbs. I fell for the pitch by my electric co-op regarding how much electricity these bulbs save. The electricity savings that's advertised is probably true, but I'm not so sure about the bottom line regarding dollar savings. I have a box full of burned-out bulbs, none of which lasted for even one year."



Charles "Buddy" Myers is proud of his 1970 John Deere 4020 diesel tractor, which has more than 28,000 hours on it without ever overhauling the engine.

### Amazing Deere 4020 Has 28,018 Hours

"My best buy is my 1970 John Deere 4020 diesel tractor. As of June 19 it had 28,018 hours on it without ever overhauling the engine," says Charles "Buddy" Myers, Zanesville, Ohio.

While Myers doesn't know for certain that his tractor's hours are a "world record", no one has come forward with more hours since **Orion Samuelson** interviewed him on national TV when the tractor had just over 20,000 hours.

"It's never been babied," Myers says. "It's been driven by many hired men and teenagers learning to drive. Since it was the biggest tractor we owned for several years, it did most of the fieldwork for 500 acres and barnyard work for 400 dairy cows. We're in the hills of southeast Ohio and it has pulled thousands of loads of silage."

Over the years, Myers' mechanic, **Galen Honabarger**, has done general maintenance work on the tractor. He ground the valves at 10,000 hours and was surprised at how the cylinder liners looked new with the original swirl and hone marks still on them. At 19,200 hours, he fixed a minor seal leak and found a pliable seal and a hydraulic pump shaft that still looked brand new.

"He 'stole' the shaft," Myers says, and re-

placed it with a new one. Honabarger wanted proof of the tractor's good condition.

much less the five years they're supposed to. One bulb didn't even last an hour."

**Lowell LaFave, Middletown, Mo.:** "It's one of the most versatile cordless tools I've ever seen," says Lowell about his **Ryobi** 18-volt combo kit. "This kit comes with 11 tools and I purchased other tools to go with it. The lithium battery I bought for it makes the tool work that much better. I highly recommend it."

"My **Sears** drill press, table saw, bandsaw, and shop vac are all worst buys. I couldn't use the drill press because the chuck failed. With the bandsaw, the blade would either jump off the wheels or break. The table saw had a throat plate big enough to drop a stick of wood through, and it didn't have much power. I was a machinist for 40 years and these are the worst pieces of machinery I've ever seen."

**Brian O' Shea, Wellsboro, Penn.:** "My **Gorilla** adjustable step ladder is an excellent tool (ph 800 867-6763; [www.gorilla.com](http://www.gorilla.com)). It's easy to adjust and extend, and works much better than a stepladder. I can stand on either side of it and use it on steps or on uneven terrain. I like this step ladder so much I plan to buy a second one."

**Fred G. Schwartz, Sturgis, Mich.:** "It still runs as good as the day I bought it," reports Fred about his 1975 **Stihl** 015 chainsaw. "I used this saw for nine years to cut all the wood that we used to heat our house."

"Galen and I joke about how this tractor is going to outlast us," he adds. "When Galen replaced the brakes a few years ago, I had him work his way from the clutch to the back so we don't have to go back into it when we are in our 90's. I remember Galen saying, 'the inside of this tractor looks like it just came off the showroom floor.' There was no chipping in the gearing and everything was very shiny and in perfect condition."

"We still use it every day around the yard to power a TMR mixer to feed 700 dairy heifers. It's a quality-built tractor," Myers says. "This tractor doesn't get any special treatment other than using **Conklin** products, which I've used in it almost since the beginning. I was so impressed with how well they work that I became a **Conklin** dealer in 1974 and I still am today."

Myers welcomes Farm Show readers' calls about his legendary tractor with its phenomenal record.

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"My 1996 **Dodge** 1/2-ton pickup still cruises down the highway as good as new."

**Bill Burrell, Jr., San Angelo, Texas:** "I own and operate a 500-acre trophy hunting operation. I bought 10 buckets, or \$250 worth, of **Lucky Buck** mineral supplement which is supposed to produce bigger antlers. However, the deer wouldn't touch it and it did no good at all. Maybe the empty 3-gal. plastic buckets will come in handy."

**Nikki Roman, Howell, Mich.:** Nikki's the satisfied owner of a **Deere** 3520 tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "I'm 76 years old and the loader has saved me and my 39-year-old daughter a lot of back aches. The tractor is powered by a diesel engine that always starts, even during the winter. The post hole attachment we use makes putting in fence posts an easy job."

**Brad Miller, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio ph 419 267-5679:** "I like **Sea-Crop** saltwater fertilizer ([www.thefuelman.com](http://www.thefuelman.com)). It has worked great on all the crops I've used it on. It's designed to remineralize the soil with a perfect balance of all the missing nutrients. I like it so much that I became a distributor."

**Harold Emly, Sidney, Montana:** "My **Dixon** ZTR429 zero turn riding mower has a lot of power."

"The problem with my **MTD** gas-powered snowblower is that I can't get the electric start to work."

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