

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

(Continued from previous page)

**Direct TV.** However, without any notice Direct TV took RFD out of my 'package'. They tell me that for a \$26 per month update I can have RFD TV back. I'm not happy about that."

**Al Hoffmeyer, Grass Valley, Calif.:** "Last year I bought an 18-volt drill at Sears. Recently the batteries stopped charging fully.

"I took the drill to a local Sears store but they wouldn't work on it and they don't sell the charger by itself. So I took the charger apart, and wired the terminals to a small 18-volt toy charger module. Bingo, the batteries were back up to full charge."

**Rev. Bro. Generik Broderick, Mt. Horeb, Wis.:** "After reading about the **Staber** clothes washing machine in FARM SHOW, I started saving up for one because my old washing machine had quit working. There have been both positive and negative reports on this machine in FARM SHOW, but I bought one anyway (ph 800 848-6200; www.staber.com).

"Well, this machine kicks butt. I just finished doing a really big backlog of laundry with no problems. The machine uses very little soap, and I can fill it up full. There's no destructive agitator, and it's easy to set up. The machine is made from the highest gauge materials. I've used it to wash lined pants full of 'dairy-air', Carhart coats, insulated coveralls, and cement choked trousers, and all of them came out clean. No redo's were necessary.

"The machine's spin is intense so it has to be set exactly level on a solid floor. It's a heavy machine, and getting it down the stairs was harder than getting the old machine up and out."

**David Ourada, Lucan, Minn.:** "My 2005 **McCormick** C100 tractor equipped with an L750 front-end loader is my worst buy. I bought it to do cattle chores. I ordered it with the largest hydraulic pump available, yet the loader moves very slowly unless the engine rpm's are running at about 2,000 rpm's. This tractor's hydraulic performance is very poor."

**Stanley Price, Valleyview, Alberta:** Stanley likes his 2006 **GM** Canyon truck. "It has plenty of power to pass vehicles and to climb hills. We use it hard on our farm for hauling and towing, and it has survived our rough roads.

"My 2008 **Arctic Cat** ATV is made of cheap plastic, and one time while I was chasing cows the lights fell out."

**Michael Stevens, Harrisville, W. Va.:** "Last year I bought a used 1969 **Massey Ferguson** 135 tractor for \$1,000, and it's my best buy. I use this tractor almost every day, yet it has required only routine maintenance. It's the best \$1,000 I ever spent."

**William Kane, Oxford, Penn.:** "The **Wolverine** work boots I bought at Sears last year are reasonably priced and very comfortable. However, several months after I bought them I noticed large pieces were missing from the soles on both boots. Sears wouldn't replace the boots because they weren't their own brand and suggested I call the company. I did and was really impressed with their customer service. They were extremely helpful and have a no-questions-asked replacement policy. I was able to get a comparable style boot of my choice with no hassle. The claims paperwork was emailed to me. The replacement pair arrived promptly. Meanwhile, I bought a new pair of boots at Sears which are wearing fine. After this experience I'm definitely sticking with Wolverine boots."

**James Devlin, Almond, N.Y.:** "The **Bobcat** 643 skid loader I bought several years ago is my best buy. Other than repainting, it has required only routine maintenance. I'd

definitely buy another one.

"My 2007 **Dell** laptop computer has been in for repairs more than I've been able to use it. I won't buy another one."

**J. Salyer, Floyd, Va.:** "My best buy is my 1997 **Deere** 855 tractor. I use a backhoe, front-end loader, and belly-mounted mower with it to haul firewood almost every day. It has about 2,200 hours on it. Only the water pump has been replaced.

"The propane-powered weed burner I bought at **Northern Hydraulics** is my worst buy. It was almost impossible to keep lit."

**Ron Thomlinson, Goulais River, Ontario:** "I like my **Gerber** Multi-Tools (ph 800 705-2040; www.rockynational.com). The company offers several different models, each one with different components ranging from a wire cutter and crimper to scissors and serrated knife blades. I own a couple of different models and I never go anywhere without one or the other attached to my belt. The quality of the blades and the strength of the pliers is amazing. After years of hard use, the tip of the needlenose pliers on the multiplier 400 finally failed. But the company repaired it immediately."

**Ray Gilbert, Bankston, Alabama:** "I bought a used **DR** Weedeater. The owner said he had used it only once. We've used it successfully many times with no problems. I paid only about half as much as a new one would have cost."

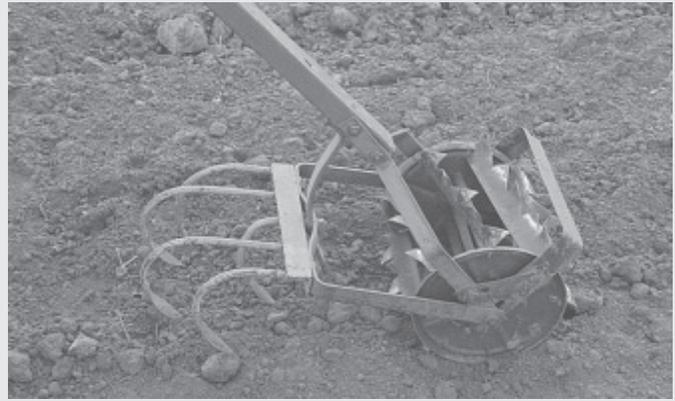


**Deforest J. Burden, Manawa, Wis.:** "Last year I bought some open-pollinated silage corn from **Green Haven Open-Pollinated Seed Group** (ph 607 566-9253; www.openpollinated.com) and it grew up to 13 ft. tall. The company sells open-pollinated corn varieties for growers with shorter growing seasons. Many of their varieties are certified organic."

**Dan Carruthers, Ramsey, Ill.:** "In one of FARM SHOW'S recent issues someone had a problem with high iron content in their water. We also have very high iron in our water and aren't supposed to use it for drinking water. So we did some shopping and bought a **Kinetico** water softener/conditioner. It's operated by the water itself via a small water meter and switches tanks automatically, using no electricity at all. It comes with a 10-year warranty.

"In the past our bathtubs, toilets and sinks had to be cleaned daily or they wouldn't get clean. The dishwasher was off limits because the water stained the dishes so badly. Shower heads and sink aerators plugged two to three times a year. However, since buying this water softener we've had absolutely no problems. My wife and I think it's the best buy of our 26-year-marriage. She loves it.

"I still like my 1988 **Chevy** Suburban, which is equipped with a 350 cu. engine with throttle body fuel injection. We bought it used in 1994 as our family vehicle. Since then my



**Ro-Ho** is a hand-pushed tool with a reversible handle. It can be used with either the cultivator tines, as shown, or with the weeder bar and crumbler wheel.

### They Love Their Ro-Ho Gardener

Bill and Jean King of Outlook, Sask., love their **Ro-Ho Gardener**, a versatile device they've used for more than 30 years. They're able to weed as much as 1,000 sq. ft. in 30 min. with the tool. With a 2-acre vegetable garden consisting of 120 100-ft. rows, the couple has plenty of need for it.

"We call it our walking hoe, but it's twice as wide as a standard hoe and a lot easier," Jean says. "This is the fastest way we've found to weed the garden and it works best in weeds that are 2 in. tall or smaller. If they're big enough to pull by hand, they're too big for this. The best thing about it is that kids love to use them. They have fun racing."

The **Ro-ho** is a hand-pushed tool that has a flat bar on one end which dislodges weeds below the surface, much like a rodweeder. The bar is closely followed by multiple, rotating, triangular blades which Kings say does a fantastic job of laying the dislodged weeds above ground, while simultaneously breaking up any lumps of dirt.

wife has started driving mini vans but I'm still driving the Suburban. The children are gone now but we still travel a lot. Now it has about 313,000 miles but is still going strong. I change the filter every 5,000 miles and the oil every 15,000 miles. I use Mobil 1 full synthetic oil. I converted the Suburban to a work truck by folding the back seats down and sliding in a bed liner. It still gets 16 to 17 mpg.

"The paint job still looks good and everyone is surprised when they find out what year it is. I just run it through the car wash every month."

**Kevin L. Wenger, Mt. Crawford, Va.:** "At 2,400 hours the engine on our 1998 **Gehl** 5635 SXT skid loader blew up while idling. Before that we had to replace a hydraulic drive pump after it self destructed. Then the frame started cracking. We sold the machine a few years ago and bought a **Case** 95 XT which we like."

**Jimmy Dew, Guthrie, Okla.:** "My wife and I are thrilled with our 2009 **Dodge** Ram 1500 crew cab pickup equipped with a 5.7-liter, V-8 engine. It gets about 20 mpg on the highway. The cab has a lot of storage area, and the ride rivals that of a luxury sedan or may be even better. We test drove a **Dodge** in 2002 and at that time you couldn't run fast enough to give me one. However, they've made a lot of improvements in the new **Dodges**. I recently test drove a 2009 **Ford** F-150 and a 2009 **GM** Sierra, but my **Dodge** has a better fit and trim than either of those models. We definitely recommend **Dodges**."

**Bernard Geisel, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.:** "My **Deines** HT 2072 zero turn commercial riding mower is my best buy (ph 800 624-

You can flip the handle over to switch from the rodweeder feature to a set of five cultivator shovels. The Kings say they don't use this part much.

"We've found that the walking hoe works best on a sandy loam soil and doesn't do well with roots, rocks or trash," Ken points out.

The handle is also somewhat adjustable to the operator's height.

The **Ro-ho Gardener** was made by **Rowe Manufacturing Company** in Galesburg, Ill. They apparently stopped production in the early 1990's, but units often turn up for sale at auctions and sites like eBay. In addition, **Lehman's** recently started remanufacturing an exact replica of the cultivator. It sells for \$164.95 plus S&H. The company's contact information is: **Lehman's**, One Lehman Circle, Kidron, Ohio 44636 (ph 888 438-5346; www.lehmans.com).

Contact: **FARM SHOW** Followup, Bill and Jean King, P.O. Box 311, Outlook, Sask., Canada S0L 2N0 (ph 306 867-9419).

7774). It's an all-steel mower with no plastic or aluminum on it. You buy direct from the factory as they have no dealers. The mower was delivered right to my door with no dealer mark-up, all set up and ready to mow. It's a fantastic machine - no problems.

"My **Woodchuck** 4000 wood and coal furnace is a best buy (ph 715 654-5132; www.woodchuckfurnace.com). The company is a long-time builder of the excellent **Meyer** forage chopper boxes. Skimping on quality apparently isn't an option for them. Even my installer was impressed with the ruggedness and workmanship of this furnace."

**Rex Fulton, Midland, Texas:** "In January 2008 I purchased a **Whirlpool** natural gas, 40-gal. water heater from **Lowe's**. This past January it quit working. The gas control valve had to be replaced. The repairman said we were lucky the valve had lasted almost a year because many of them only last about six months. This heater is made in Mexico."

**Tim Bloomquist, Drayton, N. Dak.:** "I bought a **GSI** grain bin from **CMC** in Fargo, N. Dak. A short time after the bin was put up the side walls failed, making the bin totally useless. I contacted both **CMC** and **GSI**, located in Assumption, Ill. Neither company would make any effort to help."

**Wesley J. Martin, Vassar, Mich.:** "My 2008 **Stihl** MS 290 chainsaw runs good and is easy to start and handle. It also cuts fast. I really like it.

"The muffler came loose on my **Husqvarna** 350 chainsaw after just a few hours of use. I took the saw back to the dealer who was of no help. I had to buy new bolts and gaskets to repair it. However, it wasn't