

BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

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

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Editor

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Paul Case, Quapaw, Okla.: Paul likes his **Boardwalk** bandsaw mill (ph 573 633-2135). “I’ve only had this saw for about 100 days but have already cut enough lumber to build a new house for myself and sawed some lumber for neighbors, too. The cost savings from just that one building project is enough to pay for this mill. I’d love to teach my son or my dad to operate this mill, but I’m having too much fun running it myself.

“I owned two other lumber mills, but this model can cut twice as much lumber in the same time. One of my circular sawmills had 52 teeth that cost \$1.10 apiece to replace, whereas a replacement band for this mill sells for only \$24. The sharpener I bought with the mill works good, too.

“This saw cuts on an angle so it almost pulls itself along with no effort. It’s designed with a manual belt tightener and throttle control on one lever, which saves fuel and time. The log deck is built from 6-in. channel iron and is built heavy. The company is very responsive to my phone calls.”

Brent Dyer, Toronto, Kansas: “My 2008 **Edenpure** 1000 XL portable heater is my best buy. I’ve read several bad reviews on it in FARM SHOW, and my experience would

the windshield, a leaking water pump, and a broken interior door handle on the passenger door. Also, the air conditioner, heater-defroster, courtesy lights, radio, and a tail light didn’t work. When cold, the truck idles at full throttle and when warm it idles at 60 to 70 percent full throttle. It sounds like a turbine.

“These trucks are shipped as is without a warranty or service manual. Except for the bill of sale, the entire transaction is by word of mouth, thereby preventing any documentation of changes in the agreement prior to shipment. It’s obvious these trucks aren’t inspected prior to shipment.”

James H. Wilson, Jr., Smith Creek, Mich.: “I ordered a Honda 24 hp gas engine from Small Engine Warehouse (ph 800 321-6725; www.smallenginewarehouse.com) for my Deere 318 lawn tractor. I wanted more power to run a snowblower. The engine was ordered on Wednesday and arrived the next day. As a result, I was able to have the snowblower up and running after the biggest snowstorm of the year. I had a technical question which the company resolved quickly. Their company service is the best. The converted engine bolted right in and all the electrical hooked right up. This 24 hp engine makes a Deere 318 lawn tractor work like it should.”

Neva Owens, Tuttle, Okla.: “I like my 2008 **Kioti** CK35 tractor equipped with a KL130 front-end loader. It’s a small tractor that’s still big enough to lift 1,000-lb. round bales. No problems. I’ve used the loader to fill in a big gully and to pull logs while clearing land. It’s a great tractor.”

Michael C. Legacy, Michigamme, Mich.: “My 2008 **FARMI** JL35P winch is well made and a great log-skidding machine. It saves time and makes skidding out logs a safe and simple job. It turns any tractor into a cable skidder.”

David Martin, Hamlin, N.Y.: “Our 2008 **Sunflower** 1444 disk does a beautiful job of leveling the ground and works better than any other brand we’ve used. It makes a beautiful seedbed for planting soybeans and wheat.”

William Merendini, Brodheadsville, Penn.: “After 20 years of waiting, I finally got a chance to purchase the tractor of my dreams - a 2008 **Deere** 3720 with cab. Unfortunately, this tractor has turned into a nightmare for me. The tractor is so unstable that I feel it’s dangerous to use. When I first used the tractor, I was bounced around inside the cab so badly that I hit the door handles.

“I bought the tractor last July, but as of January I had put only 19 hours on it. I’ve written letters to the company and also lodged a complaint with the Better Business Bureau. But so far there has been no response from Deere.”

Dave Genske, Claremore, Okla.: “I use my **Reese** 2070W disc/drum mower for both cutting hay and clipping pastures, which has eliminated the need to replace my old worn out Bush Hog. One of my hay fields is in a coal reclamation area, and even though I’ve spent a lot of time and effort picking rocks there are always new ones showing up. Whenever I’ve hit rocks while mowing, I’ve always been able to continue on. The biggest repair was replacing one of the mower blades.

“Even though this mower is almost 7 ft. wide I’m able to use it with a Massey Ferguson 231 tractor rated at 36 hp. I use the mower to cut 100 to 200 acres per year and it works great. The mower’s rear wheel really helps to stabilize a mower of this weight on such a small tractor.”

Tom Chaney, Chrisman, Ill.: “My 2006 **Deere** X500 riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck and powered by a 25 hp Kawasaki vertical shaft engine is my best buy. No problems.”

Jeff Spirdione, West Branch, Mich.: Jeff’s happy with his **Ryobi** 18-volt cordless

Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

have been the same if someone from the company hadn’t told us to remove the air filter on back of the unit. The heater has worked perfect ever since, saving us money on propane.”

Mark Curtis, Gorham, Maine: “I’m impressed with my 2008 **Black Max** 7000 UA77 generator which I bought at Sam’s Club for \$999. It’s equipped with a Honda 13 hp engine. It runs great and will power my entire house - well, pump, furnace and all.”

John Niebruegge, Kirksville, Mo.: “My 2007 **Deere** 5225 utility tractor is great when it’s working. However, it has had a multitude of electrical issues and blown fuses. The starter went out a little after 400 hours. We’ve already spent at least \$2,500 on this tractor. We hold our breath whenever we use it, wondering if it’s going to work.”

Roger W. Parks, Moweaqua, Ill.: Roger’s happy with his 2008 **Massey Ferguson** 2615 49 hp utility tractor. “I use this tractor with a 6-ft. Woods chopper, an 8-ft. blade, and a 9-ft. mounted disk. It does a great job with all this equipment. No problems.”

Ivan F. Eden, Center Junction, Iowa: “My 2007 **Mahindra** 6520 front wheel assist tractor has exceeded my expectations in performance and reliability. I got rid of three other older tractors and this one has taken over all their duties. The old tractors were IH 1066 and 450 models, and a Massey Ferguson 65. Price was a factor as well as service - both are excellent with this tractor.”

Michael Bachhuber, Mayville, Wis.: “My worst buy was a mini truck from Japan that I bought from **Paul Stith**, Oneonta, Alabama, who sells rebuilt used mini trucks. This ‘like new’ truck was ordered in October 2007, but after multiple delays and a price increase it didn’t arrive until August 2008.

“The truck was shipped with two cracks in

OPINION

Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy
Send your nominations to:
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,
Lakeville, Minn. 55044, or use
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