

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

Kawasaki Bayou 220 ATV is one of the most useful tools on our irrigated farm. It has been trouble-free.

"My **Sears Craftsman** 14.4-volt cordless drill is indispensable around our shop and is a best buy."

Thomas Grabowski, Free Soil, Mich.: "My 1985 **Allis Chalmers** 8030 front wheel assist tractor has a lot of power, turns short, and is comfortable to operate. The cab is easy to get in and out of and has better visibility than the cabs on most other big name tractors."

Tom Ostler, Anderson, Ind.: "I bought my 1973 **Kubota** L-185 tractor used six years ago, and it's the most reliable piece of equipment on our small farm."

"My 2001 **Jeep** Cherokee Sport is my worst buy. It has required more minor repairs than any other vehicle I've ever owned. A couple of months after I bought it I noticed large white spots under the clear coat finish. I had the vehicle repainted at Daimler/

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Chrysler's expense. However, neither the company nor the dealer would pay for the car we rented while the Jeep was being repainted - a job that took an entire week."

Floyd Veerman, Oskaloosa, Iowa: "My 2002 **Toro** zero turn Z61 riding mower works great and is fun to use. I like it much better than a regular lawn tractor. I'll never buy another mower that doesn't have zero turn steering."

Darryl Mueller, Yorktown, Texas: Darryl's disappointed with his 1993 **Ford** F-250 pickup equipped with a turbocharged diesel engine. "If the slave clutch cylinder fails, you have to replace everything from the master cylinder to the slave cylinder. The dual mass flywheel is also a disaster. The serpentine belt won't stay on in wet weather, and the belt tensioner has broken twice in two years. This is one sorry truck."

Don R. Reed, Riverside, Wash.: "My **Case-IH** Hydro 84 is the first tractor I ever bought and is a best buy. About two years after I bought the tractor a pto bearing fell out. I went to a local dealer with my story of woe. To my surprise, he knew about a company that rents out a special boring bar tool that's designed to bore the housing out. He ordered an oversize sleeve and bearing kit for me and arranged for me to rent the tool. The rental charge was rather expensive - \$290 for three days - but I thought I could save money by doing the job myself. I started in on the project but after spending a half day trying to adapt the bar to my tractor, I realized that I had overcut. I stopped my work before I did too much damage."

"I sent the tool back to the company and had a machine shop come out and clean up my mistake. My total cost was about \$1,300. The moral of the story is that sometimes it's better to let the people who do something for a living take care of major problems, rather than try to do it yourself."

Edward S. Kline, Hartly, Delaware: "My three **Allis Chalmers** tractors - an 8050, 7045, and 185 - have provided excellent service with hardly any problems."

"I like all my **Gravelly** garden and mowing equipment."

Valentino De Rossi, Iron Mountain, Mich.: "My 2000 **Bryan** outside wood burning furnace is well built. I like not having to pay for propane gas during the winter months." (Contact Bryan Furnace at 800-927-

9947; Website: www.rik-mar.com).

Brad Miller, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio: Brad's a dealer for **5 Star** super penetrating fluid, which he says is a "best buy". "Over the years I've tried many different penetrating fluids and various other ways to free up rusted and stuck parts. Until recently P.B. Blaster had been my favorite penetrating fluid, but this one works a million times better."

Blake Yoder, Apple Creek, Ohio: Blake says his 1999 **Gehl** 4835 SXT skid loader is his "best buy". "I bought it used with 332 hours. I had some minor problems with bolts breaking on the quick attach mechanism, but otherwise it works great."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Suzuki** 500 ATV equipped with an automatic transmission. "The transmission and clutch went bad at 1,000 miles, then the replacement transmission and clutch failed again at 2,200 miles. A starter shaft broke and caused \$2,500 worth of damage. The warranty covered the first transmission and clutch, but the starter shaft broke only four days after the warranty had expired. We plan to get rid of this machine."

Frederick J. Lange, Rock Tavern, N.Y.: Frederick's the satisfied owner of a 1998 **Massey Ferguson** 362 4-WD tractor. "This is our first 4-WD tractor and everything on it works great. The engine does a good job of holding back whenever I have to haul loads downhill. This tractor burns a little more fuel than our **Massey Ferguson** 165, but its performance is worth it."

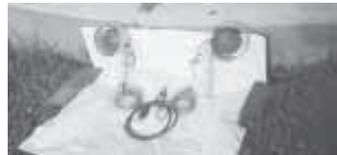
T. Numan Jacobs, Ralph, Alabama: "My **Brave Product** 3-pt. mounted log skidder is my best buy (Brave Product, Inc., Streeter, Ill.). I had been using a chain to skid logs, but this 3-pt. attachment works better because I don't have to get off the tractor. The grapple does the dirty work."

"My **Buckeye Tractor** front-mount 3-pt. hitch is a best buy (Columbus Grove, Ohio). I've found that the front 3-pt. is just as useful as the rear one."

Robert J. Neisen, Delano, Minn.: "One of my best buys is something I came up with myself. It's a universal light bar that I mount



on tractors with duals, wagons and other equipment. Each light is protected by a circle of steel. It's simple to power them off a tractor battery. The telescoping bar lets me extend them out to almost any length."



"So many people were interested in these lights. I put together a packet containing 13 color photos, drawings, and wiring directions. This is a relatively easy do-it-yourself project and it costs very little. Just send \$5 to cover my expenses to: Robert J. Neisen, 3946 Co. Rd. 30 S.E., Delano, Minn. 55328 (ph 763 972-2207)."

Greg Willis, Carrollton, Texas: Greg's impressed with his 1967 **Deere** 110 lawn tractor which he bought used. "I use it to mow my church's yard and haven't had a single

problem with it. It's powered by a tough 8 hp Kohler engine, which has never been rebuilt."

"My 1997 **Chevrolet** Z-71 pickup is my worst buy. I had problems with the transmission, water pump, and three fuel pumps - all before the pickup even had 40,000 miles on it. I don't think Chevy pickups make very good work trucks."

Tony Taro, Escalon, Calif.: "It'll cut a lot of rice when we can keep it running," says Tony about his **Deere** 7700 rice combine which he bought used. "We've been using Deere combines for more than 40 years and this 7700 is the most difficult to repair that we've ever owned. Parts for it are difficult to get, also. We have two Deere dealers about 20 miles away, but they don't stock parts for this combine so we have to go to dealers 60 to 160 miles away."

Murray Lawler, Linton, N. Dak.: "My **Deere** 345 garden tractor and **Deere** 7800 tractor are both best buys. My 1998 **Honda** Accord is also a best buy."

H. Renfroe, West Memphis, Ark.: "My 2000 **Chevrolet** 3/4-ton, 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6-liter engine is my best buy. It runs quiet and has a lot of power. My only complaint is that it has the loudest sun visors of any vehicle I've ever owned, and I'm 74 years old so I've owned a lot of vehicles."

David Sheldon, Mt. Sherman, Ky.: David says the 16-in. wood planer he bought last year from **Harbor Freight** is his "worst buy". "The bearing on the blade shaft got so hot the first time it was used that the shaft broke. The company replaced the planer, but we had the same problem with the new one. You can only use it for a short time before it gets hot. Another problem is that the feeder roller makes marks on the boards as they go through the tool."

Jimmy Adams, College Grove, Tenn.: "My 1994 **Toyota** pickup works great."

"My 1992 **Kubota** 4030 tractor is built as tough as nails."

"My 1999 **Ariens** mower, which I bought used, is my worst buy. My dealer went out of business, so every time the mower broke down it took about six weeks to get parts. I finally junked it."

Jim Horn, Seymour, Mo.: "My **White** 2-75 is a great mower tractor. It has about 4,000 hours on it but it still starts great in cold weather and is fuel efficient."

"I didn't know it at the time, but the **New Holland** 463 disc mower I bought new in 1991 was really a **Kuhn** mower with red paint on it. This mower didn't cut hay, it just stripped the field. Neither my dealer nor the factory reps would do anything about it. I finally traded it in for a new **Kuhn** disc mower that works great."

Jim Luning, Stockton, Ill.: A 2000 **Deere** Z-trac F-620 zero turn mower equipped with a 60-in. deck rates as Jim's "best buy". "I use it to mow five acres of lawn. It reduces my mowing time by 1 1/2 hours compared to the tractor and mower I had been using. I've put more than 250 hours on it with no problems. It's built heavy with excellent workmanship."

On the minus side, he lists his 2001 **Dodge** LST 1/2-ton 2-WD pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine. "This pickup is a big disappointment. It has very little power, rides rough, and is hard on fuel. It gets only about 10 gallons per mile on the highway. Another problem is that if I use it to pull anything the transmission will constantly shift back and forth."

Harold Stoudt, Hamburg, Penn.: "My **Parmak** 12-volt solar-powered fence controller doesn't live up to the company's performance claims and is my worst buy. One of my 500-lb. steers put his head down under the wire and went through as though nothing

was there. I guess I made a \$300 mistake when I bought this fence controller."

Raymond Rumford, Ottawa, Kansas: "My 2001 **Case-IH** MX 200 front wheel assist tractor is my best buy. It has a lot of power, handles well, and is fuel efficient. It has been trouble-free."

"My **Case-IH** MX 100 front wheel assist tractor equipped with a front-end loader is a best buy. It handles great, turns on a dime, and has a lot of pulling power."

Glenn Griffith, Kingdom City, Mo.: "It'll mow right around a 4-in. dia. tree," says Glenn, pleased with his 1995 **Kubota** 1800 riding mower equipped with a 5-ft. front-mount deck. "It's powered by a diesel engine that uses very little fuel and has a lot of power. If the engine ever runs out of gas I can just use a simple glow plug key to restart it. I've had very few problems with this mower."

Fred W. Smith, Mexico, Mo.: Fred's the owner of a "best buy" 1994 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton shortbed pickup equipped with a V-6 engine. "It starts right up in any weather, doesn't use oil, is fuel efficient, and turns short. It rides so smooth that when I drive it I almost feel like I'm sitting in my recliner chair. I custom fitted this pickup with a camper top equipped with cargo doors, and I also installed a 5-ft. rollout storage drawer in the bed, which I designed and built. It's a great work truck."

Kurt I. Uhlenhake, Ossian, Iowa: "My **Aqua Ozone** water treatment system treats my farm's entire water supply without the use of any chemicals."

"My 1982 **Deere** 4240 is a great tractor. It has more than 10,000 hours on it, but the engine has never been touched."

"My 2000 **CMC** all-air grain bin drying system works great. It's a simple system with no heat or stirrators to work with."

"My **White** G100 6-row narrow planter does a perfect job."

Bill Crawford, Milford, Mich.: "My 1988 **H & S** 7-ft. hay tedder is my best buy. It greatly reduces drying time, which allows me to bale hay the second day after cutting without any problems. In some cases I can even bale the same day that I cut. This tedder has had only minor problems, the worst being shaft alignment. It has a light tongue weight, and the tongue's constant up and down movement wore out several hitch pins. I converted it to a ball hitch and thus solved the problem."

Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: "Folks who haven't learned about J B Weld are missing out on a great product. I got my first tubes of it at Wal-Mart many years ago and find it very handy in repairing broken parts on just about everything. A great product."

Mark Newhall, Lakeville, Minn.: "When I had to replace the tires on my 1995 **Windstar** a little over a year ago, I figured I would just buy the highest-mile tire I could find because I planned on driving the van for several more years. But before heading to the tire store, I called a family friend who works as an engineer for one of the world's largest tire companies."

"I was surprised when he told me that the highest-mile tires - usually around 70,000 miles - perform best in areas without a lot of snow and ice. Because the rubber in these tires is harder, they don't grip as well on slippery roads. Of course, living in Minnesota, we're driving on snow and ice for what seems like half the year."

"Even though he works for a competing tire company, he recommended **Michelin** 50,000-mile X-One all-season radials. This particular tire is at the middle range in price and has the added benefit of being "siped".

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