

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

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David Edington, Frankfort, Ohio: “I bought 4 gal. of **Yenkin-Majestic** oil-based aluminum paint at Menards to paint my metal roof. The paint started flaking off after the first rainfall. After filling out many forms and taking lots of pictures – and also consulting a lawyer – they would not stand behind their product.”

Norm Bennett, Newport, Vt.: “If you haven’t tried a Ford pickup with an Eco-Boost engine, you will be surprised,” says Norm about his 2011 **Ford F-150**. “It pulls a trailer better than any 8-cyl. pickup I’ve ever owned and I’ve had all makes. On secondary roads, if I’m really trying for good mileage, I get more than 21 mpg. However, the average is more like 15. No mechanical problems with it in 2 1/2 years.”

stripper header he uses on his Deere 9770 combine. The header has 8 rows of stripping fingers mounted on a drum that rotates



upward. As the combine moves through the field, the fingers strip grain heads and some of the straw from the standing crop and deposit it onto a conventional auger that moves it to the feederhouse.

“We use this stripper header to harvest 4,000 acres of winter wheat and also malt barley. We bought our first 30-ft. model in 2011 and liked it so much that we traded for this one. We paid about \$80,000 for it, which is about \$10,000 to \$20,000 more than a comparable draper platform would cost. However, the stripper header lets us run faster than we could with a draper platform so we’re getting just as much done with a 36-ft. stripper header as we could with a 45-ft. draper platform.

“Another advantage is that a stripper header removes only the heads of grain, so longer stubble is left in the field. If you’re not tilling like we do you can plant right into that taller stubble, which catches snow during the winter. We use a **K-Hart** 42-ft. disc drill and really like it (www.khartindustries.com; ph 306 378-2258). The tall stubble also provides more shade to growing crops, which keeps the ground cool and helps retain moisture.”

Phil Hopkins, Hutchinson, Kansas: “I’ve used my 1991 **Stihl** 026 chainsaw to cut more than 200 cords of wood. It always starts right up and it cuts better than newer saws.”

Cody Lehman, Nescopeck, Penn.: Cody’s the satisfied owner of a 1984 **Gravely** 8163-B riding mower. “It has a lot of power. I like the hydraulic deck lift and the direction control hand clutch, which makes it easy to switch between forward and reverse. This machine has required only routine maintenance.”

Douglas Jackson, Midland, Mich.: “My 2015 **Deere** Gator 825i utility vehicle has a lot of power and will easily drive through 1-ft. deep snow. The electric dump on it is very handy. A bearing on the front drive axle had to be replaced after we used the machine to haul heavy logs out of the woods.

“My **Stihl** MS-311 chainsaw starts easy and is easy to clean. It comes with a great operator’s manual and there are good instructional videos on Youtube.”

Ronald Hodsdon, Pownar, Maine: A 2014 **Fujitsu** heat pump rates as Ronald’s “best buy” (www.fujitsugeneral.com; ph 866 952-8324). “We’ve used this heat pump for 3 winters to heat our 10-room farm house, at a cost of only about \$35 per month. We shut the pump off only when the temperature drops to 10 degrees below zero or colder. We also use about 500 gal. of oil per year in our hot air oil furnace and about 2 1/2 cords of wood in our wood stove. At the time the pump was installed oil was selling for more than \$4 per gal.”

Tom E. Weekley, Guysville, Ohio: “I bought my used 1993 **E-Z-Go** golf cart equipped with a gas engine from a friend years ago. The cart had already been ‘lifted’ and had knobby tires all the way around. I bought the machine for my wife to use. However, it turned out to be so handy that I now use it more than she does around our farm. We use it to haul feed, build fences, and to go fishing and hunting. It’ll haul 4 big men up some pretty steep hills on our farm, and I once used it to pull an 8-ft. drag disk. This golf cart is built tough.”



Walter Miller, Lawrenceville, Ill.: “One of my best buys ever is my original **DR** brush mower, which was made by Bachtold Brothers in Gibson City, Ill. I paid \$1,195 for it in 1994. I’ve used it to make and maintain trails in the recreation area on our farm. The mower will take down saplings 1 1/4-in. dia. and even bigger. It’s still going strong with no problem.

“I recently bought a **DR** 22-in. self-propelled mower and it also does a good job.

“On the other hand, my worst buy is a **Snapper** Model 7800920 rear engine riding mower that we bought in 2013. In the beginning I had to take it back to the dealer 3 times. Once the problems were solved and we were able to use the mower, it didn’t have enough power when it was set up for mulching. It cuts unevenly. I’ve tried to get the manufacturer to take it back but to no avail. I only weigh 180 lbs. fully clothed, so it’s not me.”

Stephania Potter, Ridgefield, Mass.: “I absolutely love the **Gopherhawk** gopher and mole trap (www.gopherhawk.com; ph 805 486-8225). Moles are a real problem in this area of western Washington. Over the years I’ve used just about every kind of mole trap, poison, and repellent sold. When I read about the Gopherhawk in **FARM SHOW**, I finally found something that not only works but that’s easy for a lady of 75 years to set. I love it!”

Mitch Auer, Broadview, Mont: Mitch likes the 2015 **Shelbourne Reynolds** 36-ft.

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,
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